

FALL 2013

# Accent

AN AVILA UNIVERSITY PUBLICATION

*School of Nursing Celebrates*

25 Years



# *Letter from the President*



*"We are recognized as an institution that develops well-rounded individuals with knowledge, skills and experiences enabling them to make a positive difference in the world."*

Alumni and Friends,

Time and time again, Avila University's mission guides us. Our transformational learning environment, strong core curriculum and beautiful campus contributed to a fourth consecutive semester of record undergraduate enrollment, bringing our total student body to nearly 2,000 students. Avila remains a strong Catholic university. We are recognized as an institution that develops well-rounded individuals with knowledge, skills and experiences enabling them to make a positive difference in the world. Avila's sponsorship by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet and its mission of providing values-based learning is preparing an ever-growing number of students for responsible lifelong contributions to the global community.

Avila's School of Nursing, celebrating its 65th anniversary, exemplifies our commitment to values-based learning. As you turn the *Accent* pages, enjoy the vintage photographs and stories of our nursing past, present and future. That future shines as more than 250 nursing graduates from nearly 50 different graduation years recently were honored at a celebratory luncheon at the Overland Park Convention Center.

Avila's pride in its students and alumni extends beyond the School of Nursing, and many of their accomplishments also are highlighted in this issue. Alumni leaders including **Mary Ellen Clark '73** and **Donna Jungman '06** chaired Avila's 2013 Homecoming activities that focused on the traditions and relationships that define Avila. Sixteen alumni were honored with awards during Homecoming, and as you will see from the stories following, our alumni are being recognized as leaders representing numerous professional disciplines.

We are making progress toward the goals of our Centennial Initiatives with the help of supporters like the **Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet** and the **J.E. and L.E. Mabee Foundation**, both of which made \$1 million dollar gift commitments. I am most pleased to announce that we are honoring the 43-year career and leadership of our Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, **S. Marie Joan Harris**, by establishing the Marie Joan Harris, CSJ, Ph.D. Science & Health Complex. S. Marie began her career at Avila as a chemistry professor, and I am thrilled that we can recognize her years of devoted leadership in this way.

Join us as our story continues. With your support and advocacy, we will continue to serve record numbers of students and instill in them the strong values and purpose that are distinctly Avila University.

Gratefully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ronald A. Slepitzka". The signature is fluid and cursive, with "Ronald" and "A." on the first line, and "Slepitzka" on the second line.

Ronald A. Slepitzka, Ph.D., CSJA  
President

# Accent

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FALL 2013

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## ON THE Cover

See how Avila's School of Nursing continues to lead the industry as we celebrate 65 years (and counting!) for this highly esteemed program.

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# BREAKING RECORDS (AGAIN!)

## MOVE-IN WEEKEND 2013



### 32

Percent of traditional undergrads are Catholic. Avila has always followed and espoused the mission set forth by its founding Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet.

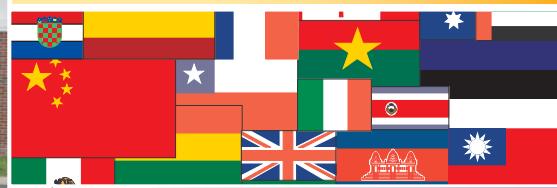
### 39

Percent of Avila's student body is minority or international.



### 27

Countries are represented by Avila's international student population: Australia, Bangladesh, Brazil, Peoples Republic of China, Colombia, Croatia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Gambia, India, Israel, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Taiwan, United Kingdom, Vietnam.



Go to YouTube to see the video!  
Search "Avila University Move-in Day"

Avila University experienced its fourth consecutive semester of record undergraduate enrollment, bringing total enrollment to nearly **2,000** students.



In the presence of Fr. Jean-Pierre Médaille Society members and Avila University Trustees, Fr. Keith Branson and S. Marie Joan Harris, CSJ, Ph.D. dedicate and bless the Hartsook Presidential Conference Room. Jeanne Hamilton Olofson '92, '94, '11 acknowledges the room's benefactors, Robert Hartsook, JD, EdD, University President Ronald Slepitz, Ph.D., CSJA and First Lady Suzanne Slepitz.

## President's Circle Honors Members

On September 19, 2013, members of Avila University's President's Circle gathered to celebrate the beginning of the University's 98th school year, dedicate the new Hartsook Presidential Conference Room in Marian Center and induct new members into the Fr. Jean-Pierre Médaille Lifetime Giving Society. President's Circle members are those whom contribute \$1,000 or more annually to the University. The late Dorothy Whitfield '55 was inducted into the Fr. Jean-Pierre Médaille Lifetime Giving Society, which is comprised of individuals and organizations that have contributed more than \$1 million to the University. Ms. Whitfield received her degree in chemistry in 1955 and became a successful entrepreneur as the owner of C&I Products, a distributor of medical and clinical supplies. She served Avila University as a Trustee from 1982 to 1997 and generously supported the construction of the Whitfield Center on the University's campus. **A**



Avila University students present the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet with a thank you card signed by hundreds of University students, faculty and staff in thanks for the Sisters' continued support and recent \$1 million contribution. Pictured: Sophomore Melissa Ingram, sophomore Grace Miller, S. Laverne Aufmuth, CSJ, sophomore Kayla Grieshaber, S. Jeanne Janssen, CSJ, S. Marie Joan Harris, CSJ, Ph.D., S. Ruth Stuckel, CSJ and sophomore Dayton Antley.



Ms. Whitfield's nieces, Jenny Dean-Batson '94 and Kelly Myers, accept a shadow box displaying the Father Médaille Society medal.



Avila University Fr. Jean-Pierre Médaille Society welcomes new members with President Ronald Slepitz, Ph.D., CSJA.  
Back row: President Slepitz, Robert Hartsook, JD, EdD, Tom Olofson, Jeanne Hamilton Olofson, '92, '94, '11.  
Second row: Matt Beem, Hartsook Companies, S. Laverne Aufmuth, CSJ, S. Marie Joan Harris, CSJ, Ph.D., S. Ruth Stuckel, CSJ, S. Jeanne Janssen, CSJ.  
First row: Kelly Myers, Jenny Dean-Batson '94.

# Harry S. Truman Distinguished Lecture Series



Bob Harris, *The International Bank of Bob*, author, shares his stories of micro-funding from around the world.

Avila University hosted Bob Harris, author, *The International Bank of Bob* and *Jeopardy!* Champion at The Harry S. Truman Distinguished Lecture Series presented by Bank of Blue Valley in Goppert Theatre. The event began with a discussion led by panelists Bob Regnier, chairman, president & CEO, Bank of Blue Valley, JoAnn Field, founder, KC Women Go Global and Robert W. Hatch, chairman, FINCA International.

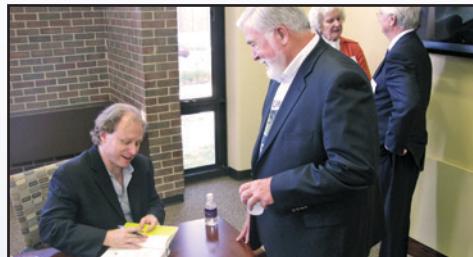
Avila's first-year students studied micro funding as part of the 2013 Common Reading Program, held fundraising activities, researched microloans and ultimately loaned more than \$7,800 through Kiva and FINCA to small businesses around the world. Sue Ellen McCalley, Ph.D., professor of education and psychology, chaired and moderated the lecture series. **A**



The lecture series began with a micro funding panel discussion. Pictured: Bob Regnier, Avila University President, Ron Slepitz, Ph.D. CSJA, JoAnn Field, Robert W. Hatch and Sister Marie Joan Harris, CSJ, Ph.D.



Students surround Harris during the book signing.



Joe Fahey, Avila University Vice-Chair of the Board of Trustees, visits with Harris while getting his book signed.



## Professor Publishes Powerful Book

Leslie Durrough Smith, Ph.D., assistant professor of religious studies, is having her book published by the venerated Oxford University Press. *Righteous Rhetoric: Sex, Speech and the Politics of Concerned Women for America* offers a detailed study of one of America's leading conservative Christian women's organizations, Concerned Women for America (CWA).

In the work, Smith argues that the absolute, ordered platforms commonly thought to be the main distinction of the New Christian Right (NCR) actually are not the source of political power for the CWA. Rather, such absolutes are the byproduct of "chaos rhetoric." By manufacturing these negative emotions, the group is in prime position to offer its own platforms as alternatives.

"One of the reasons I initially had interest in this group was because of their founder's very extreme state-

ments about the dangers that working mothers pose to American culture," Smith said. "I found these statements illogical. However, at the same time, they caused me to have nagging worries that worked on the guilt so ubiquitous to parenting and family life. I wanted to better understand what it was about their rhetoric that both attracted and repulsed me at the same time."

Smith particularly focuses on CWA's use of cultural symbols revolving around issues of sex, which has been cast by the NCR as the ultimate emblem of morality and used through regulation to control society at large.

According to the Oxford University Press, *Righteous Rhetoric* is a powerful book that examines the weight of language and sexuality in Christian America.

"I'm thrilled that Oxford selected my book for publication," Smith said. "The process of getting the manuscript ready for submission and review was one of the most rigorous academic experiences I've had, as I had to literally think through the implications of every sentence I wrote. I hope Oxford's name will help create a wide audience for this book and spark further conversations about how we study religion." □

**OXFORD**  
UNIVERSITY PRESS



# Faculty Accomplishments

**T**his year has been a typically busy one for Avila University's faculty.

Work hardly stops in the classroom, as evidenced by the many great accomplishments documented outside the classroom and University.

**Marci Aylward**, associate professor of art and design and curator of Thornhill Art Gallery, presented her "The Lights of Women Exhibitions" at Gwangju Biennale in Korea. She also exhibited "The Late Show" for the month of April, 2013 in the crossroads district in Kansas City, Mo.

**Stanley Banks**, assistant professor of English and Avila's resident poet laureate, published his fifth book of poetry, entitled *Blue Issues*. In addition, one of his poems, "A Fierce Beauty," is scheduled to be published in *I-70 Review* later this year. Two other poems – "An American Criminal" and "An Offbeat Singer" were published in *The Whirlybird Anthology*.

**Martha Blackman** and **Lonna Boen**, assistant professors of nursing, co-presented "Dealing with the Difficult Student" at Clinical Faculty Academy in Kansas City, Mo.

**Greg Fitch**, Ph.D., wrote professional reviews for two manuscripts, which were submitted to the journal *Bioscene*, for which he is on the editorial board.

**Robert Foulk**, associate professor of theatre and director of performance studies, was one of five directors

invited to direct a scene (*The Goat* by Edward Albee) for the Directing Showcase at the Region V Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln.

**Maria Hunt**, Ph.D., professor of psychology & director of Avila's mindfulness program, delivered the keynote address at the Eastern Kansas Veteran's Association Annual Conference for Social Workers in Leavenworth, Kan. She also was part of a team that presented a poster at the American Psychosomatic Society annual conference in Miami.

**Gerald Larson**, Ph.D., professor of kinesiology, was certified as a registered clinical exercise physiologist by the American College of Sports Medicine. He was certified as a strength and conditioning specialist with the National Strength and Conditioning Association and was certified as a Level I club coach with USA Weightlifting.

**Teresa Lorenz**, Ph.D., assistant professor of Spanish wrote a conference paper titled "¿Me estoy volviendo loco? Demonstrando la psicosis en 'El rostro' de Urbano y 'De lo circunstancial a lo efímero de Monterroso'" ("Am I going crazy? Demonstrat-

ing psychosis in Urbano's 'The Face' and Monterroso's 'From the Circumstantial to the Ephimeral').

**Sue Ellen McCalley**, Ph.D., professor of education and psychology, served on the executive board of the Missouri Association of Colleges of Teacher Education (MACTE), representing private universities. She also moderated sessions at each MACTE conference.

**Ron McCleary**, assistant professor of computer science, served as chair of the 2013 Central Plains Annual Conference for the Consortium for Computing Sciences in Colleges.

**Kristopher Proctor**, Ph.D., assistant professor of criminology, presented three different papers at two annual conferences. "Innovation and Differential Association Theory" was presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Society of Criminology in Chicago. "From Genes to General Strain Theory: How Modern Neuroscience Can Bridge the Explanatory Gap" was presented at the same meeting. And "Building Relevant Research on Broad-Access Higher Education" was presented at Remaking College: Broad-Access Higher Education for a New Era at New York University. □



Left: Lisa Susunaga '07, RN, BSN, a public health nurse in Nome, Alaska, flies to remote villages every other week to provide assessments, immunizations and education to Native Alaskans.  
Right: Lisa appears with community members on a snowy day in Nome.



## Way Up North

### *Lisa Susunaga '07, RN, BSN, moved to Alaska where she flies to remote villages to treat patients*

By Linda Friedel

(Reprinted by permission, *The Kansas City Nursing News of Missouri*, Volume 21, No. 51, December 17, 2012)

**T**he engines purr to life, lifting the four-passenger plane into the air. The pilot will make several stops to deliver milk and supplies in outlier villages before delivering his passenger to work. She has packed her usual supplies. For now her eyes are fixed on the scene below.

"Every time I get on a plane, I see that vast beauty as far as you can see," said Lisa Susunaga '07, RN and BSN. "I can't believe I'm getting paid to do this."

Susunaga flies to remote Alaskan villages on a regular basis delivering health care and assessments to Native Alaskans, also known as Eskimos. Formerly of Kansas City, Susunaga and her husband, Iran, moved to Nome, Alaska several years ago where she started her work as a public health nurse. It was a fluke, Susunaga said. She was happy working at the VA Hospital in Kansas City. Then on a whim, she began surfing the net. She had always been intrigued with Alaska, where the sun shined for months, then hid. She clicked on a job listing that gave her pause.

"I sent my resume in and they called me the next day," Susunaga said.

It was 20 degrees below zero when Susunaga paid a visit to her perspective

employer in Alaska. The agency paid for her expenses for her initial meeting, then made an offer she could not refuse.

"I knew God wanted us to be there," she said. "They paid all my student loans. The more I thought about it – that would be a pretty cool opportunity."

Susunaga rotates between Nome and 15 villages accessible only by plane. She spends one week in Nome, with a population of 3,500, then every other week flies to a remote village to work among populations of around 100. She works solo as a nurse, but partners with the village clinics staffed by clinic health aides.

In addition to assessments, Susunaga provides well child exams and immunizations, addresses tuberculosis and educates clients on anything from hygiene to sexually transmitted diseases, addiction and domestic violence.

Among the Native Alaskans in the villages she serves, there is a high incidence of suicide and sexually transmitted diseases, Susunaga said.

"There are no jobs," she said. "[There is] high alcoholism here.

"It's like a different world here. Fashion means nothing. Material items mean nothing. You're in your snow boots up to your knees. That's what I love about it. It's very rugged. It's very rough."

Winter temperatures stick at 35 below for a month solid. Pipes freeze, it is impossible to drive and people walk in blizzards, Susunaga said. Summer temperatures range from 30 to 50 degrees, but Alaskans are prepared for the weather year around, she said.

The temperatures can change quickly. "There is no such thing as bad weather," she said. "It's inappropriate clothing."

Lonna Boen, RN, MSN and assistant professor of nursing at Avila University, is one of Susunaga's former instructors. She follows Susunaga's blogs and photos with great interest, she said. Boen said Susunaga always had a heart for caring for underserved populations. It fits with the university's mission to help the dear neighbor, she said.

"She wanted to do something in nursing that really makes a difference," Boen said. "We're all really proud of her for what she's doing. It just speaks to her character and her genuine care for people." □



Temperatures range from the 50s in summer to minus 35 in winter months.



Caryl Goodyear-Bruch '79, RN, Ph.D., NEA-BC visits with Susan Fetsch, Ph.D., Dean, School of Nursing

## Alum Maintains “High Bar” in Critical Care Nursing, Management and Education

**C**aryl Goodyear-Bruch '79, RN, Ph.D., NEA-BC, has worked at the highest levels of critical care nursing for more than three decades. She's served as president of a national organization for critical care nurses.

And yet, when she speaks of Avila University and its School of Nursing, where she earned her bachelor of science in nursing, she can't help but raise her hands above her head.

“One of the things I always think about when I think of Avila is that they set the bar high,” she said, holding her hands flat, palms down just above her eyes. “Even back in the 1970s, they emphasized that nurses needed to be leaders. Patients needed us to be leaders. Programs don't always instill that in you, but Avila gave you an excellent foundation in leadership and what it meant to be professional.”

It's a foundation that has served Goodyear-Bruch well throughout a

career that has taken her from the Midwest to the West Coast and back, where she's worked in a variety of roles in the practice of critical care nursing and education.

A native of Independence, Mo., Goodyear-Bruch worked as a charge nurse in an intensive care unit in Southern California and, during that time, earned her master of science in nursing at the University of California-Long Beach. She later earned her doctorate from Kansas University, after moving back to her hometown. She's taught at Graceland University, William Jewell and KU.

“I've just sort of followed natural progressive steps,” she said. “I earned my CNS (critical care nurse specialist), I've

worked in academia (she's an adjunct professor at the KU Medical Center).

“I truly do a variety of things.”

From 2008-09, Goodyear-Bruch served as president of the American Association of Critical Care Nurses, the largest nursing specialty organization in the country.

She works today at Children's Mercy Hospital in Kansas City, Mo. as director of professional resources and leadership development. In this role, she maintains a variety of activities such as interfacing with clinical education, leading a group of staff nurses developing a leadership academy and is conducting nursing research.

For the near future, she plans to meet with Avila's School of Nursing to learn more about its newly-reinstated RN to BSN program and what it has to offer.

Goodyear-Bruch credits biology professor Bob Powell, Ph.D., for her coming to Avila. She wasn't sure what she wanted to do after high school, but attended a camp during the summer after graduation to get a water safety certification. Powell was one of the instructors at the camp.

“He saw something in me,” Goodyear-Bruch said. “Later, he said, if you're going to be a nurse, you might as well go all the way and come to Avila.”

It's advice Goodyear-Bruch said she's glad she took. Since that day back in the 70s to today, she considers Avila's School of Nursing among the best in the area, one that sets that proverbial bar very high.

“The expectations there just seem so much more, and there's always been this tradition of expectation,” she said. “Avila just stands out. It's always had that tradition and bar that's always been up here.”

The hands once again stretch upward, over her head. ▲

# Paying It Forward ... and Back

*MBA alum inspired by Avila to mold future healthcare leaders*

In at least one direct way, Heath Roberts '10 has Avila University to thank for his current employment at Children's Mercy Hospital.

Now, he's helping his former graduate school create more and better educational opportunities for those looking to prepare themselves for a similar career path – that of a leader in healthcare.

"It's something I'm very passionate about," said Roberts, director of medi-

cal administration with Children's Mercy Hospitals & Clinics in Kansas City, Mo. "I think we have to enhance our academic institutions in the area, like Avila, that are devoted to developing future leaders. Avila provided an opportunity for me to continue my education and I truly look forward to giving back. We must continue to attract emerging leaders into healthcare who are eager to provide value for patients and populations into the future."

It's much of what Roberts does at Children's Mercy. As director of medical administration, he's responsible for developing processes and systems essential to the continued success of the hospital's medical operations.

It's a position he secured while working on his master's in business administration at Avila, which he finished in 2010.

In one of his MBA classes, Roberts, who was working in health informa-

tion management and organizational effectiveness at Truman Medical Centers in Kansas City, struck up a conversation with a classmate who worked in supply chain services at Children's Mercy. The classmate told him she was getting ready to move to Oregon, leaving a job opening. She introduced Roberts to Children's Mercy, and Roberts ended up joining the team.

"Through my Avila network, I was able to join the Children's Mercy team," he said.

In actuality, a job in healthcare was determined for him several years earlier. Born and raised in northern Louisiana and spending the last few years of high school in the Kansas City area, Roberts joined the Army following high school graduation. The Army determined that he would be a medic (healthcare specialist), and he spent four years, from 1999-2003, serving in the 502nd Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division at Fort Campbell, Ky. In 2001, as part of Task Force Falcon, Roberts was deployed to Kosovo supporting NATO forces in the region.

After being honorably discharged in 2003, he returned home to Kearney, Mo. and quickly realized he had just a basic professional skill set. He knew how to save lives from his military training, but felt it was a good idea to enhance that with some formal business training. He at-

tained an associate's degree at Maple Woods Community College and two bachelor degrees at Park University.

Roberts began working at Truman Medical Center in 2007, but knew he wanted more options with regard to his career. To his good fortune, he found that Truman had a good working relationship with Avila through its Corporate Academy. He attended classes both at the TMC Corporate Academy location on the Hospital Hill campus and at Avila. The MBA class schedules were flexible to meet his busy schedule and having access to multiple locations added to the overall value.

"I knew I wanted to do something in the medical industry and wanted a graduate degree," Roberts said. "Avila turned out to be a perfect fit. The flexibility of their class schedule, and access to business leaders. Avila has instructors who pass along practical knowledge to us."

Roberts joined Avila's Board of Counselors early in 2013, volunteering his time to help Avila get the word out about what a great place it is.

"If I can be a part of an organization like Avila and help develop ways to continue to nurture future young healthcare leaders, that's what I want to do," he said. "It's really about connecting to an institution and developing opportunities to help kids coming out of college, going into grad school, finishing up their programs and entering or emerging in the workforce." 





# Celebrating 65 Years of Excellence in Nursing Education

Rae Burkhart Walline '58 took the trolley to campus. As a student in the three-year nursing diploma program at then the College of St. Teresa, it was quite convenient for Walline to hop on the trolley at 31st and Prospect near St. Joseph's Hospital, where she lived in a student dormitory, and make the short trip to the college, which sat next to St. Teresa's Academy prep school, at 56th and Main.

"All the diploma students took the trolley down to the college," said Walline, which in those days included about 10-11 women. "We all lived in a dorm at St. Joe Hospital. BSNs were on campus their first year, but in the diploma program, you were in clinical after six weeks. So, we were housed at the hospital."

From 1948, when the Department of Nursing was established at the College of St. Teresa, to prior to September of 1960, the college offered three programs in nursing: the three-year diploma, a four-year baccalaureate program and a supplementary (continuing education) program for graduate registered nurses. Most of the nurses in the four-year program lived on campus.

The nursing school looked a lot different then compared to the facilities at the disposal of today's students – which have included men since 1969 and now have class sizes nearing 70 – working in Borserine Nurse Education Centre

on the Avila University campus at 119th and Wornall. There were just two buildings then at the 56th and Main site – one for the high school, one for the nursing school. The nursing school building was three stories and a basement, which housed a cafeteria. The library was on the middle floor. The Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet who ran the school lived on the top floor of the high school building.

Tuition for the four-year program back then ran about \$180 per semester. Room and board was around \$235.

"The labs were not exquisite by any means," said Virginia Coppinger '58, an Avila Medal of Honor recipient who graduated with a BSN, "but we always had everything we needed to learn."

Avila's School of Nursing is celebrating 65 years of educating baccalaureate nurses this fall (a three-year diploma program was started in 1931). Today, the School has one of the top reputations in

the region for excellence in education and producing high-quality nurses. It's a reputation that was established back in those halcyon days of that simple, original three-story building. Just ask Walline, whose vast professional experience includes 20 years in neurological science rehabilitation.

"I always love hiring a student from Avila," she said. "It's the attitude. Avila graduates are always enthusiastic and highly competent."



To understand the history of the School of Nursing, one must first look to the foundation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet and the beginnings of St. Teresa's College, which became the College of St. Teresa, later Avila College and ultimately Avila University.





## School of Nursing

### Timeline: 1916-Present

<b>1916</b> – College of St. Teresa was the first private college for women (two-year junior college)
<b>1930</b> – St. Joseph Hospital affiliated with College of St. Teresa; enrollment increases from 36 to 206
<b>1931</b> – College of St. Teresa offers a three-year diploma program
<b>1940</b> – College of St. Teresa is first four-year college for women in Kansas City
<b>1948</b> – Department of Nursing established at College of St. Teresa. Offered diploma and baccalaureate programs, first BSN program in Kansas City, Mo. and only one until 1967
<b>1959</b> – First graduating class of nurses with BSNs in September
<b>1960</b> – Discontinued the degree program for RNs and diploma program
<b>1963</b> – College of St. Teresa moves to 119th Street and Wornall Road and becomes Avila College
<b>1974</b> – Borserine Education Centre & Goppert Fine Arts Theatre Building completed
<b>1979</b> – Re-Entry to Nursing Program begins
<b>2001</b> – 10-year accreditation by Commission on Collegiate Nursing. Renewed for 10 more years in 2010
<b>2007</b> – Complete School of Nursing Remodel through Avila's Embracing the Future Campaign
<b>2012</b> – Avila receives approval from the Missouri State Board of Nursing to increase capacity to 75

### School of Nursing

#### Chairs and Deans: 1948-Present

+	Rose Helen Vaughn, CSJ: 1948-50
+	Mary Fabian Hutton, CSJ: 1950-60
+	Mary Mark Durany, CSJ: 1960-67
+	Norma Lewis-Lavik '58, Ph.D.: 1967-80
+	Beverly Lindsey, MSN: 1980-82
+	Barbara Moore '62, CSJ, Ph.D.: 1982-88
+	Susan Hildebrand, EdD: 1988-94
+	Susan Fetsch, Ph.D.: 1994-present

The rich history Avila enjoys is rooted in the Sisters of St. Joseph, an order founded in 1650 in LePuy, France to respond to the needs of society by serving their neighbors. In 1836, six Sisters arrived in America and traveled up the Mississippi River, settling in the small town of Carondelet, just south of St. Louis. This group became known as the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, and their mission of helping those who couldn't help themselves and serving the dear neighbor seemed to make healthcare education a natural progression.

"The Sisters of St. Joseph have a long history of working with people who have healthcare needs," said S. Marie Joan Harris, CSJ, Ph.D., Avila University's provost and vice president of academic affairs. "In the 1650s in France, there was this group of women responding to those in need, taking care of the sick. That was the beginning of our community."

In 1866, six Sisters traveled across Missouri to Kansas City. Back then, the city was still a wild-west cow town, with little in the way of organization or culture. Healthcare was very poor. After opening the first private girls high school, St. Teresa's Academy, the Sisters addressed the healthcare need in 1874 by starting a hospital, the beginnings of what became St. Joseph's Medical Center.

By the turn of the century, America was at war in Cuba, and there was a desperate need for nurses. The Sisters established the St. Joseph Hospital School of Nursing under the direction of S. Irmenia Dougherty.

"In 1930, St. Teresa's College (a two-year junior college which opened in 1916) became affiliated with the nursing school," Harris said. "The hospital and college partnered together. The Sisters have always looked for, where do we go next? Where is the need? There was a need for healthcare, education and social services. The Sisters stepped forward and found ways to do that, of course, with the help of many partnerships."

Enrollment at the College of St. Teresa increased from 36 to 206.

In 1940, the College of St. Teresa became the first four-year college for women in Kansas City. The nursing program received its first accreditation from the Missouri State Board of Nursing in 1948. It was the first BSN program in Kansas City, Mo. and the only one in the city until 1967.



According to those who matriculated at the College during those early years, the nursing program was a rigorous one, not for the faint of heart.

"We lost 50-60 percent of diploma students in the first year," Walline said.

Walline especially remembers the stern leadership of the Department of Nursing's chair from 1950-60, S. Mary Fabian Hutton, CSJ.

"I remember when Elvis Presley came to town," she said. "We were told we'd no longer be welcomed as nursing students if we went to see Elvis."

Nursing students back in those days didn't work the same schedules as typical students. Days – and nights – were long, and there was no such thing as summer vacation.

"We were never on a collegiate schedule," said Mary Lancaster O'Dower '58, a BSN graduate. "We went year-round and got two weeks off in the summer. Instead of getting paid for a summer job, we just worked. Nights at St. Joe would be staffed by student nurses. We had classes in the summer."

Five years after O'Dower, Walline and Coppering graduated, in 1963, the College of St. Teresa, needing more space and a more modern facility, moved to its current location at 119th and Wornall and was re-named Avila College in honor of St. Teresa of Avila. Six years later, the college became co-educational. And, in 1974, the Borserine Nurse Education Center was built, complete with classrooms and meeting rooms and a comprehensive clinical





**Class of 1952**  
(First graduating class of nurses with BSNs)

lab. It has been home to the nursing program ever since.

"It's fantastic what they have at Avila today," Coppinger said.



Since 1948, the School of Nursing has been accredited – first by the Missouri State Board of Nursing and National League for Nursing. Then, in 2001, the School of Nursing was accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) and maintains that accreditation. In 2007, the School engaged in a \$1 million capacity expansion plan, doubling admissions to the nursing major to 55 per year along with a major upgrade to the nursing lab. In early 2010, the program introduced a family of high-fidelity simulators enabling students to learn skills and clinical reasoning which facilitate patient quality and safety in the workplace. Just last year, the University re-instated an RN to BSN

program, which it had started in 1970 but discontinued in 1998. In fall 2014, the BSN program will admit 70 students to the nursing major.

All of this growth provides the healthcare community excellent, well-educated nurses prepared to adapt to the ever-evolving healthcare environment.

"Some of our best recruiters aren't just former students, but healthcare providers around the area who say they like hiring Avila nursing graduates because of the high quality people and professionals they turn out to be," said Susan Fetsch, Ph.D., nursing administrator since 1994.

"We've moved to a concepts-based curriculum that focuses on the concepts of care. We help students continue life-long learning."

Fetsch said she's proud of the ways the School of Nursing has lived up to the original mission of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet when they founded the School all those years ago.

"There's a connection between our major and the mission of the University



*"I hope what our nursing graduates will take with them is what's in our mission statement. We've educated them to make lifelong contributions to a global environment."*

**Susan Fetsch, Ph.D.**  
**Dean, School of Nursing**

in the way that we strive to embrace the value of each and every individual, whether student or patient," Fetsch said. "When I think about the Sisters' mission to promote social justice, what better fit could there be than nursing?"

As the School of Nursing at Avila University looks forward to the next 65 years, holding true to that mission will remain at the forefront of its initiatives and goals.

"In terms of nursing care, there is a lot of science, and there are a lot of skills," she said. "But you have to go back to the values, which are integrated throughout the program – values around excellence and the continued growth of the whole person."

"I hope what our nursing graduates will take with them is what's in our mission statement. We've educated them to make lifelong contributions to a global environment."

"The nursing program will continue its tradition of excellence into the future. We look forward to the next 65 years." **A**



# School of Nursing's 65th Anniversary Celebration Luncheon

The Avila University School of Nursing celebrated 65 years of nursing excellence at a special luncheon event on Thursday, October 10 at the Overland Park Convention Center. Nearly 250 alumni, current and retired faculty and staff, current students and university friends attended this milestone event to honor and celebrate the School of Nursing. Jack Wylie was recognized by Glenna Wylie Nursing Scholarship students for his generous support – made in memory of his wife. Gloria Solis, Chief Nursing Officer and Chief Operating Officer for St. Luke's East Hospital, delivered the keynote speech as the 2013 Glenna Wylie Distinguished Speaker.

*Special thanks to our event sponsors:*

**ATI Nursing Education, Children's Mercy Hospitals & Clinics, Centerpoint Medical Center, St. Joseph Medical Center and Truman Medical Centers.**



Ginny Nyberg '01, Lindsay Hartley '01 and Steffanie Solberg '01 show off their 2001 Nursing Composite.



Tricia Lyon '00, Perri LaTerza '97 and current nursing student Kate LaTerza exchange stories before the luncheon.



Vita Goppert, President Ron Slepitzka, Ph.D., CSJA, and Jack Wylie are proud supporters of Avila's nursing program.



Anne Dunn '75, President Ron Slepitzka, PhD, CSJA, and Martha Grownay-Lawler '79 visit before the luncheon.



Gloria Solis, The 2013 Glenna Wylie Distinguished Speaker, Jack Wylie and Susan Fetsch, Ph.D., dean, School of Nursing prepare for the event.



The 2013 School of Nursing faculty and staff were recognized for outstanding service.



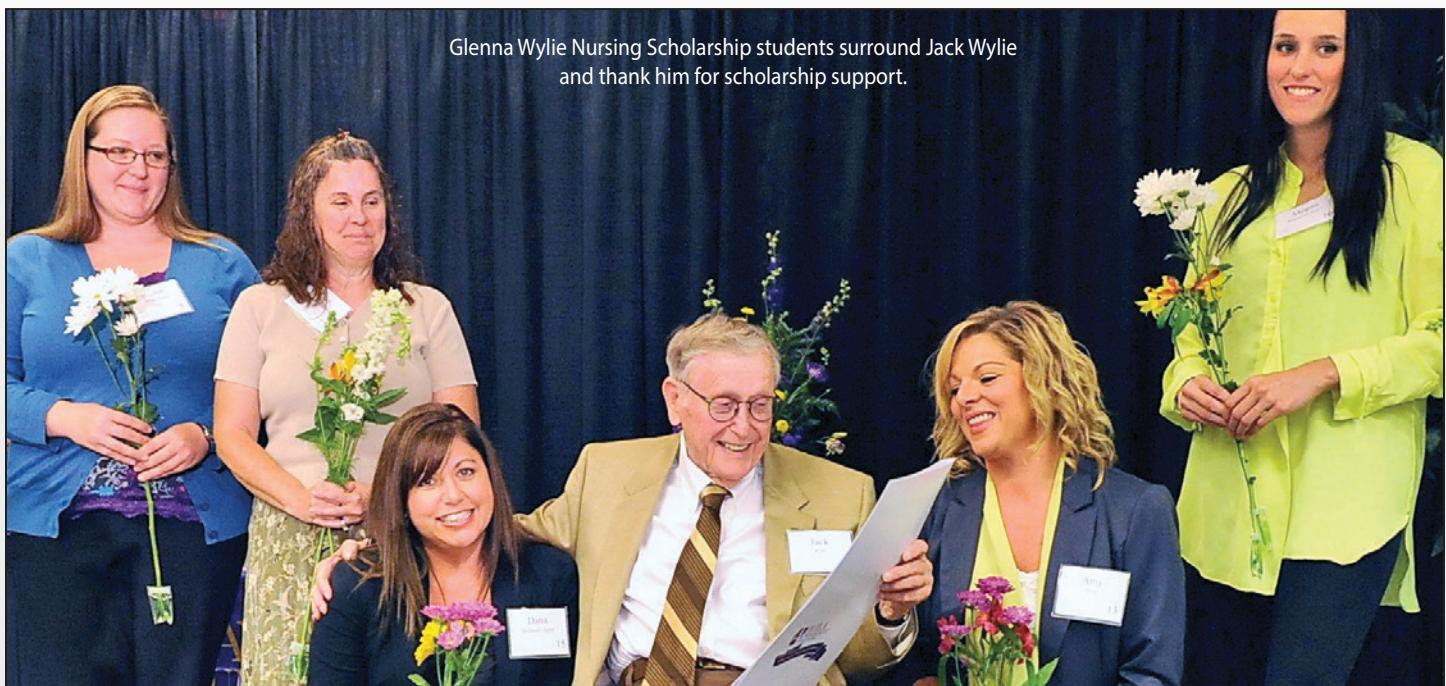
Jeanne Olofson '92, '94, '11, Susan Fetsch, Ph.D., Jessie Fuller-Clark and Mary Ellen Clark '73 take pride in supporting Avila's nurses.



S. Rose McLarney, CSJ '62, Norma Lewis-Lavik '58, Ph.D., Lee Robben '62, Helen Hagel '62, Anne Hess '62 and LaNora Hughes '62 enjoy conversation after lunch.



Robin Rowland and Bob Dehaemers '82 enjoy the event.



# Centennial Initiatives Update

Up to the Challenge!

As Avila University approaches its 100th anniversary, the University is amidst a \$43.3 million Centennial Campaign, comprised of six initiatives that will inspire students to transform the world: Future Healthcare Leaders Initiative, Transformational Learning Environment Initiative, Global Community Initiative, Creative Arts Initiative, Campus Life Initiative, and the Sisters of St. Joseph Spirituality, Service and Heritage Initiative.

## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

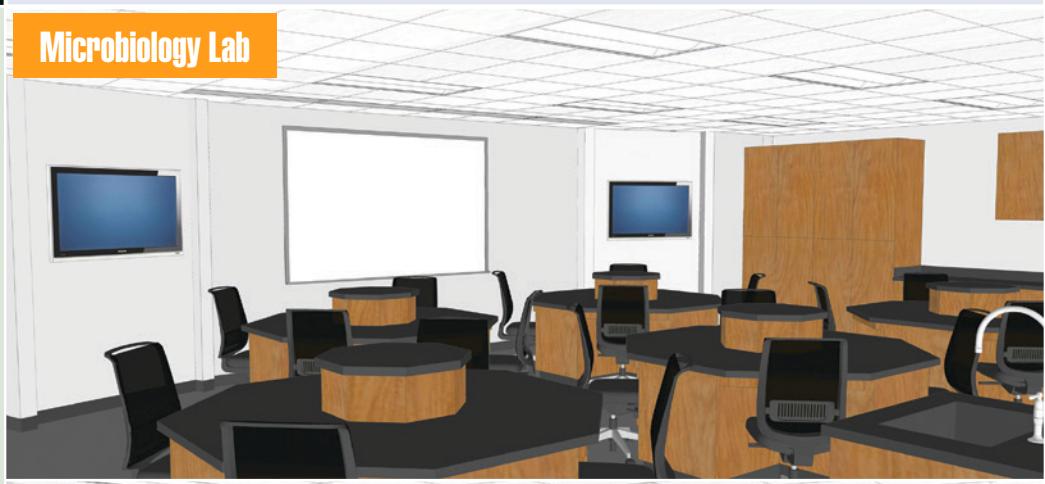


### Marie Joan Harris, CSJ, Ph.D. Science & Health Complex

Integral to Avila University's Future Healthcare Leaders Initiative is the renovation of nearly 15,000 square feet of space in O'Rielly Hall to establish the Marie Joan Harris, CSJ, Ph.D. Science & Health Complex, including new microbiology, chemistry and general science labs. The Marie Joan Harris, CSJ, Ph.D. Science & Health Complex in O'Rielly Hall will respond to the increased demand for healthcare professionals in our community and the growing number of students who are pursuing degrees in Avila University's nursing, radiologic science, kinesiology, and pre-health programs. The renovation includes a complete overhaul of the microbiology and general chemistry labs, as well as the creation of a new general science lab. Labs will be redesigned with the technologies and equipment necessary to prepare our community's future healthcare leaders.

In late October, Avila University announced that the Science and Health Complex scheduled to be completed by next fall in O'Rielly Hall will be established as the Marie Joan Harris, CSJ, Ph.D. Science & Health Complex. S. Marie began her career at Avila in 1970 as a chemistry professor. Since then, in numerous capacities including her current position as provost and vice president for academic affairs, she has stood for academic excellence. The Marie Joan Harris, CSJ, Ph.D. Science & Health Complex will help continue that excellence with new labs, technology and equipment allowing Avila to prepare students to be influential healthcare leaders.

### Microbiology Lab



### Chemistry Lab

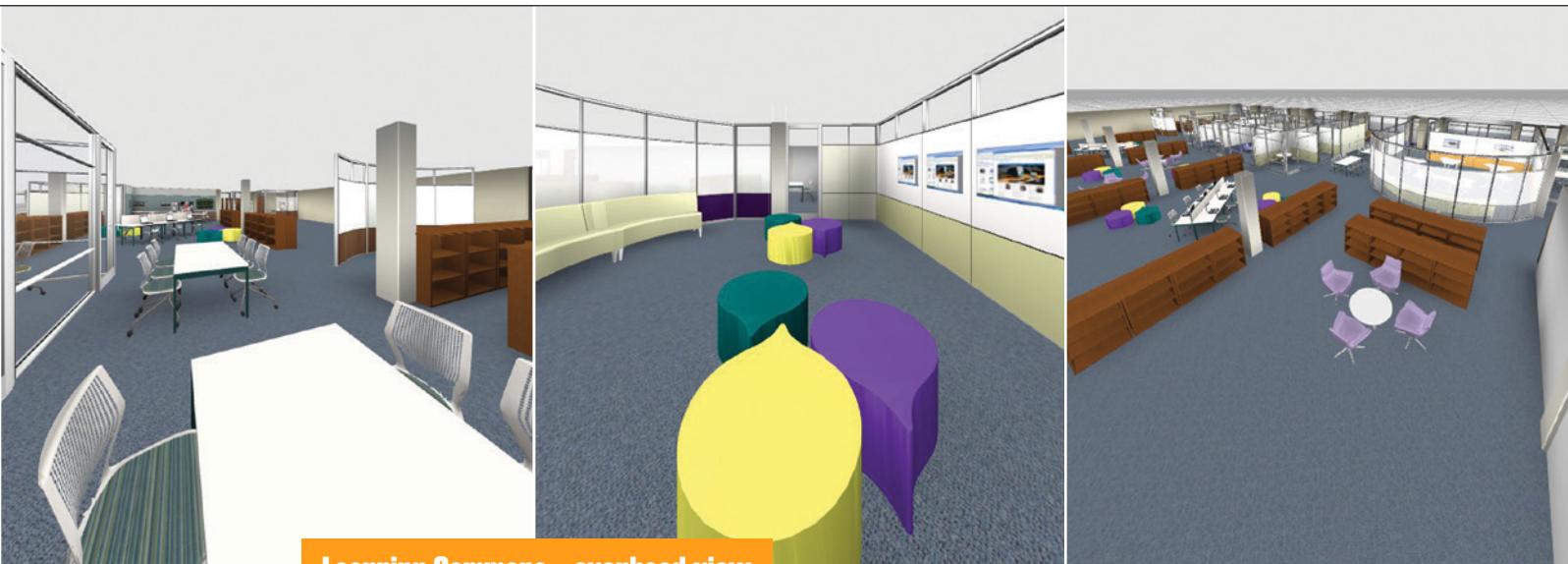


In April 2013, the J.E. and L.E. Mabee Foundation, a long-time supporter of Avila University, issued a \$1,000,000 challenge grant to the University in support of the Future Healthcare Leaders and Transformational Learning Environment Initiatives.

These initiatives will provide a state-of-the-art Learning Commons and establish the Marie Joan Harris, CSJ, Ph.D. Science & Health Complex, both equipped with cutting-edge technologies for the modern learner.

To meet the challenge, Avila must raise nearly \$9.4 million toward these projects by April 9, 2014. As of October 2013, with the help of the Centennial Campaign Committee and University leaders, nearly \$7.6 million has been raised toward this goal, leaving \$1.8 million remaining to be raised by April 2014.

Avila has been successful with past challenge grants from the Mabee Foundation due to the generosity of alumni and friends. Your commitment is appreciated, and with your continued support, Avila University is up to meeting this challenge. If you are interested in helping us meet the Mabee Challenge, please contact the Advancement Office at 816.501.3727. Your support will help students achieve their dreams of a quality education. 



Learning Commons - overhead view



## Learning Commons

As a key component of Avila University's Transformational Learning Environment Initiative, Avila will renovate more than 17,750 square feet of the existing library into a Learning Commons. The Learning Commons will provide the technology, support and environment that will allow 21st century students to not only succeed, but excel both as students and after graduation. It includes new technology and spaces designed to encourage small study groups, student collaboration and group projects, as well as quiet areas where students can study independently. The establishment of a space to house the archives of the U.S. Federation of the Sisters of St. Joseph, Avila's Women Religious Collections, and the official Avila University archives is a key component of the project.

# University Secures Gifts Worth \$2 Million

*Gift from Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet and challenge grant from The J.E. and L.E. Mabee Foundation to go toward two major projects*



Front row, l to r: Sisters Jean Meier, Helen Flemington and Elizabeth Brown  
Back row, l to r: Sisters Suzanne Wesley, Patty Clune, Nancy Corcoran and Pat Giljum

**A**vila University received two grants from longtime supporters totaling \$2 million, ensuring that students have cutting-edge technologies, modern learning centers and science labs.

The University's founding community, the St. Louis-based Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, bestowed a gift of \$1 million supporting Avila's Transformational Learning Environment and Future Healthcare Leaders Initiatives. The J.E. and L.E. Mabee Foundation, based in Tulsa, Okla., issued a \$1 million challenge grant, also targeted for these two initiatives meant to ensure future Avila students receive the most up-to-date educational experience.

These initiatives will provide Avila students with

a state-of-the-art Learning Commons and establish the Marie Joan Harris, CSJ, Ph.D. Science & Health Complex, both equipped with cutting-edge technologies.

(See page 16)

"Our new Learning Commons will combine the qualities of a library and a student center with state-of-the-art learning technologies to form an engaging area where students can collaborate, study, research and have all resources at their disposal," said President Ron Slepizza, Ph.D., CSJA. "The renovations of the science

labs in the Marie Joan Harris, CSJ, Ph.D. Science & Health Complex will give students the tools and technology they need to be successful future healthcare leaders."

In addition to the aforementioned projects, the funds also will establish an imitable archive space in the new Learning Commons that will house the archives of the United States Federation of the Sisters of St. Joseph, Avila's Women Religious Collection and Avila's own University archives. This space will house a wholly unique collection of women religious artifacts, preserve the rich history of the Sisters of St. Joseph and continue their influential mark on healthcare and education in our community.

"Avila University has remained true to reaching out to the dear neighbor without distinction and is continually moving toward the more," said S. Patty Clune, CSJ, both a member of Province leadership and the Avila Board of Trustees. "We believe our gift will contribute to building an even stronger momentum for mission." ▀

# “Enthusiastic” Hillestad is 2012-13 Professor of the Year

Carole Hillestad '89 has a favorite phrase, typed on a folded piece of white paper and taped near the window in her O’Rielly Hall office, which epitomizes why she’s happily taught at Avila University the last 27 years.

It’s No. 52 of the Sisters of St. Joseph’s *Maxims of the Little Institute* and it reads, “Interpret all things from the best possible point of view.”

“People just respond to you differently if you look at things positively,” she said.

It’s how Hillestad, assistant professor of radiologic sciences and chairperson and program director in radiologic sciences, has lived her life and gone about teaching during her long tenure at Avila. And, it’s the reason the University’s students voted her Professor of the Year for the 2012-13 academic year.

Hillestad said she was shocked at the honor, though she knew something was afoot when School of Science and Health Dean Larry Sullivan, Ph.D., pulled her aside the previous week and made her promise she would attend the Honors Recognition Ceremony April 27.

“It was an amazing and unbelievable surprise,” she said. “Nobody gave me any idea that I’d even been nominated. It was just so nice.”

It was recognition long overdue for Hillestad, Sullivan said.

“We’ve had close to 100 percent pass rates that have gone through the program which speaks volumes to the role Carole has played,” he said. “She’s dynamite in the classroom because of her very infectious, energetic teaching style. She fully engages her students in teaching.”

A wry grin crossed Sullivan’s face, and he added, with a bit of hesitation, “Carole has even been known to do a little singing in her classroom.”

Hillestad’s relationship to Avila goes even further than her time of employment. She graduated from Avila with a degree in radiologic science.

“I love Avila,” she said. “I feel like I’ve grown up here. And, I love the Sisters of St. Joseph.”



So much so, in fact, that Hillestad became a Sisters of St. Joseph Associate in 2008. It’s the values of the Sisters that she’s brought into the classroom, that’s given her the qualities of caring for each and every student and doing her absolute best to ensure each student takes away the knowledge they’ll need in the workforce.

“It’s the students,” said Hillestad when asked why she’s stayed at Avila all this time. “We get closer to them than other places. Our classes are spaced out over seven semesters, so you get to really know them, know about them. It’s just a close-knit group of people. It’s just wonderful!”

At the beginning of every semester, Hillestad asks her students to write on a piece of purple paper the one word they’d use to describe themselves. Each and every semester, she writes the same word on her sheet – enthusiastic.

It’s another reason that, at least for the 2012-13 academic year, Hillestad stands apart from her peers when it comes to being beloved by her students.

“At Avila, we change students one student at a time,” she said. “And, I’ve been changed, one student at a time.”



## Advantage Adds Four Graduate Certificates

**A**vila Advantage, Avila University's adult education division offers accelerated and flexible programs for busy adults. Four new concentrations being offered extends Avila's reputation for one of the most effective and trailblazing sources of higher education for working adults.

"We are excited about the flexibility and additional options these new cutting edge certificates give our students," said Steve Iliff, Ph.D, dean of Avila Advantage. "These programs make our students even more remarkable to their current employers and enable them to transition to new paths."

The four certificate programs are:

### ■ **Strategic Human Resources Certificate**

This graduate certificate will prepare students to take the Professional in Human Resources exam. The earned credit hours can roll into a master of arts degree in management.

### ■ **Leadership Coaching Certification**

This curriculum is designed for those in a leadership role, or wanting to move in to one. The certificate is the foundation of obtaining a master of science degree in organizational development.

### ■ **Executive Leadership**

Using the latest best practices in leadership, this certificate propels careers to the executive levels of management. The certificate lays the groundwork for a master of science degree in organizational development.

### ■ **Instructional Design & Technology**

Students gain the skills to utilize adult learning theory, design curriculum and coursework, leverage technology and social media to impact change or enhance employee development within an organization. The earned credit hours are the foundation for the masters of arts degree in management.

The addition of these graduate certificates ensures that Avila Advantage remains one of the most effective and trailblazing sources of higher education for working adults in the Kansas City area. 

## Advantage Launches Mentoring Program

**T**he Avila Advantage Mentoring Project places students together in an organized structure whereby an experienced student passes along information and insight to new students, serving as a guide for new students and to the benefit of both mentor and mentee.

"The mentoring program was added as one more tool for our students to have in their academic toolbox" said Sarah Sullivan, academic advisor for Avila Advantage and director of the Mentoring Project. "We are here to see our students succeed through graduation and beyond. This is a win-win for everybody involved. The mentees receive assistance from current students, and the mentors receive leadership skills. We currently have a wonderful group of mentors who have excelled in our program and wanted to pay it forward."

The mentoring project will help students understand issues like:

- **School policies for registration**
- **Finding classrooms**
- **Grades**
- **Understanding class syllabi**
- **Tutoring and office hours**
- **Financial aid**

This program is designed to help students who are returning to school or for those current students in the program who need additional encouragement to reach graduation. All objectives of the project are designed to benefit the mentees and are aimed to give mentees the opportunity of an additional resource in their initial contact with the university setting. By having an additional resource in the relationship with colleagues (mentors), mentees benefit from the mentoring project at different levels: individual, community and networking.

Mentors make a firm commitment for one academic year and assist mentees with such aspects as on-line classes and answering questions pertaining to Avila's systems. Students can sign up for mentoring as a new student or at any time during the Advantage program. 

# We Have the Dream

## *Avila Establishes Center for Global Studies and Social Justice*

**S**ister Griselda Martinez Morales, CSJ, United Nations non-governmental organization representative, spoke on campus about her work dialoguing with and representing CSJ communities and UN delegates to address issues of justice and peace, in particular issues of human trafficking and sustainable development.

Her speech marked the opening of Avila University's Center for Global Studies and Social Justice, a major addition to the University's commitment and embrace of the values of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet. The Center will focus on global studies as part of campus life and learning, and increase partnerships to understand and advocate for global social justice.

"As we envisioned what the Center should become as part of a Sisters of St. Joseph institution, the relationship with social justice was obvious," said Ken Parsons, Ph.D., director of the Center.

S. Griselda's message began with a two-minute video of the world's history. She said, "Our history is urgently trying to tell us to go about things in a different way, to leave our frame in understanding the world."

"S. Griselda has a multi-faceted perspective on the global community and one that goes well beyond simply saying, 'We are all one,'" Parsons said. "She also sees the importance of daily addressing problems of poverty and privilege, environmental neglect and degradation as well as the many forms of violence in our world."

"Having an internationally and globally-engaged Sister of St. Joseph share with us and engage with us on campus was huge."

Referring to Avila's new Center, S. Griselda said, "When something is new, it is being born. We don't often know what it is. We have the statement, the idea, the energy. We have the dream. But we still don't know what it is. That being born requires intention, to view it with delicacy, to watch it develop. In this, we are all being called upon to be part of this new Center for Global Studies and Social Justice." ▀



Pictured: Row 1: S. Griselda Martinez Morales, CSJ; S. Marie Joan Harris, CSJ, Ph.D. Row 2: S. Paddy Lorenz, CSJ; S. Rose McLaury, CSJ '62; David Armstrong, CSJA, director of campus ministries and mission effectiveness; Ken Parsons, Ph.D., director, Center for Global Studies & Social Justice; Carol Coburn, Ph.D., professor in religious studies and women's studies

Row 3: S. Jeanne Janssen, CSJ; President Ron Slepitzka, Ph.D., CSJA; Francis Origanti, Ph.D., Associate Professor of and chair of the department of social work; Robert Hunter, Chairman, Board of Trustees; Ana Valdez '96, Board of Trustees

*"The Center will support students and faculty in increasing partnerships to identify, analyze and advocate for global social justice.*

*Ken Parsons, Ph.D.*

*Director, Center for Global Studies*

*& Social Justice*

*Chair, Religious Studies & Philosophy*

*Associate Professor of Philosophy*



## Communication Alum Doing His Part to Help Feed the World

A quick stroll through the long, modern, ribbon-shaped hallways, offices and work stations at Leawood, Kan. research and development company SFP presents an open, family-oriented atmosphere where honest communication is coveted.

For that, the company has Avila University to thank ... at least, in part.

Jake Sanders '04, executive vice president at SFP in charge of international sales and marketing, graduated from Avila with a bachelor's degree in corporate communication. He helped redesign the offices at SFP to better facilitate communication, fostering the same atmosphere and environment at the workplace that he came to know and love while attending Avila.

"At Avila, there's an openness and honesty about the entire educational process," he said. "In our office, we have a very open and honest environment, and I can say it all goes back to that."

Sanders' corporate environment also is one that is growing at a phenomenal rate of speed. SFP creates and manufactures fertilizer enhancement products

— specifically, a polymer coating that, when added to fertilizers, allows crops to get the most benefit of that fertilizer.

"It basically keeps the nutrients where they need to be so we can produce more food," said Sanders, 33.

Sanders started at SFP in 2003, in a tiny office space with four employees. His father, J. Larry Sanders, Ph.D., is a soil chemist who founded the company and still serves as president and CEO. There are more than 60 employees that now fit into 24,000 square feet in a beautiful office building in Town Center Plaza in Leawood that houses a research and learning center for product testing and development with three growth chambers to conduct product research. The company holds more than 80 patents and sells its products to distributors around the world, including the United

Kingdom, Africa, Europe, the Pacific Rim and South America. Sanders has traveled to all these places doing business for the company.

"We had nothing, no logo (when I started)," Sanders said. "My dad told me he couldn't promise that I'd have a job next week. It was a really interesting time to start using what I learned in school. We had no budget and no way to go but up."

"We had a small amount of material to work with, but a lot of knowledge to make what we had work."

Sanders started college at Lewis University in Romeoville, Ill. But he met Megan Redenbaugh '02 one day at church, and Megan just happened to be a soccer player at Avila. It made Sanders' decision to transfer easy. They married and today are parents of two daughters, Evey, 5, and Daphne, 2 ½.

"One of the most important things I took away from Avila was that my teachers gave me the freedom to take things and run with them," said Sanders, who wrote for *The Talon*, Avila's student newspaper. "I formed great teacher relationships."

"They forced me to think. And that was a very important quality to have when I took this job." □



Joanna Inwards '13 appears next to the university's Peace Pole, located near Foyle Hall

## Student Teaching in Japan

A trip to England with her grandparents when she was a young girl first whet Joanna Inwards '13 appetite for international travel. Add to that a youth spent constantly being around international students – her father, Bruce Inwards, is the director of International Student Services at Avila University – and Inwards knew she one day wanted to live in a foreign land.



She developed a love of Japanese culture in high school, and her sister's trip to that country only spurred that interest further.

Last summer, Inwards' passions for Japan and international travel came together

and culminated in what promises to be the greatest adventure of her young life. As part of the JET Program – Japan Exchange and Teaching Program – Inwards, who graduated from Avila in May with a bachelor's in social

work, will spend the next year teaching English to Japanese schoolchildren.

"It's been my dream since high school to go to Japan," said Inwards, a Kansas City, Mo. native. "When I went with my grandparents to England to visit relatives as a 10-year-old, it was a great experience. When my father told me about JET, it seemed like a great opportunity.

"I knew that, instead of just visiting, I wanted to live there."

To get the position, Inwards had to go through a rigorous interview process. Out of thousands of applications, she was selected to interview in person in front of a panel in Chicago in February.

"It was very intimidating," she said. "It was kind of like American Idol. There was a panel of interviewers, and two out of the three were from Japan. Because the Japanese often don't outwardly show emotion, I had no idea how I'd done."

At the beginning of April, Inwards received an email letting her know that she was on a short list of candidates to make the trip. She said she knew then she'd made it. First, however, there was another application to fill out and FBI background checks.

"I was also in the middle of a lot of school projects and getting ready to graduate, so I was just glad I was able to get through it all," Inwards said.

Francis Origanti, Ph.D., associate professor and chair of Avila's Department of Social Work, said he has no doubt Inwards will excel wherever she finds herself in the next year and beyond.

"Joanna is exceptionally diligent and hardworking and very good at working with others," he said. "She is also president of the Student Organization of Social Work among other things. She has made the social work department proud of all her accomplishments."

Inwards said she originally wanted to work with children, but gained experience at the other end of the life spectrum by completing an internship at a hospice, which mainly serves the elderly. She said she might mix both by one day working in pediatric hospice care.

But first, there's Japan.

"I'm pretty excited," she said. "It's been my dream for several years. It's hard to believe it's really happening. To me, it's all an adventure." ▀



## Chasing History

*New archivist serves to preserve*

**A**s a young girl, Adonna Thompson had an interest – fascination, really – with history. Not only reading about it and studying it, but digging under rocks, scratching under the surface, mining every detail and fact she could find. She loves completely immersing herself in history.

It's a passion with Thompson, one that makes her perfectly suited for her new role as Avila University's first archivist. As such, her tasks will be plenty – she is digging up and through photos, articles and ephemera of Avila's School of Nursing, gathering all of the University's historical artifacts and materials organized, preserved and, in some cases, digitized. She also is developing policies under which the archives will operate.

However, her foremost task is the establishment of an on-campus site to house the archives of the U.S. Federation of the Sisters of St. Joseph and the Women Religious Special Collection.

The Women Religious Special Collection is a unique collection that incorporates books by, for and about Catholic sisters in the U.S.

"It includes more than 2,500 books dating from the 1830s to the present, including scholarly works, community histories, fiction, poetry, art, guides to women's religious orders, constitutions, rule books and annals from a variety of women's orders," said Carol Coburn, Ph.D., professor in religious studies and women's studies and director, CSJ Center for Heritage. "Additionally, it contains photos, audio and video tapes, manuscripts, pamphlets and other materials on American Catholic sisters."

The research room for the archive will be named for S. Martha Smith, CSJ, who founded the collection in 1997 and continued to work on it following her retirement as a history professor at Avila.

"The Federation and the Women Religious special collections promise to be fantastic. I'm really looking forward to working with these collections and getting to know them better," said Thompson.

One of Thompson's concerns these days is maintaining proper temperature and humidity levels in the rooms where historical documents and pictures are stored. That's proving to be a challenge in the small, back storage room she now occupies in Hooley-Bundschu, but there will be improved climate control when her new space in the south end of the library is constructed next year.

"Getting in on the ground floor of establishing an archives is very exciting," she said. "Every day I have something new to do. I love that I have so much say in helping to found something that will stand the test of time. It'll be a great thing once we have the archives established."

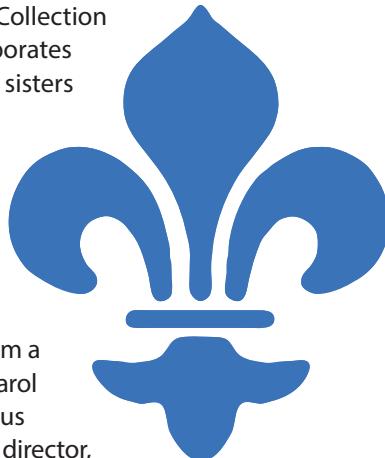
Thompson originally is from Kansas City, Kan., but spent much of her young professional life working at Duke University in Durham, N.C. She served in a variety of archivist roles before ultimately becoming assistant director of the archives at the university's medical center.

"My role consisted of making sure the archives operated smoothly," Thompson said. "I was in charge of research, outreach and education, which means that I ran the reading room, assisted researchers with their requests and conducted research for internal departments and publications. In addition, I curated exhibits and developed promotional materials for the archives. I also ran joint education sessions with the History of Medicine Curator."

She returned to the Kansas City area in August, 2012.

"Avila has the best environment in which I've worked," she said. "Everyone is so friendly and wants to help in any way they can. And helping the dear neighbor means more than it implies. The people of Avila put action to these words."

"I'm having a great time becoming buried in the history." ☮



# AVILA GIVES BACK!



First-Year Students provide a day of service at Harvester's—The Community Food Network



First-year students Curtis Farmer and Blanca Funes are all smiles as they enter Harvester's—The Community Food Network for their first-day service project.



COMMITTED TO HELPING  
OUR DEAR NEIGHBOR



Students enrolled in the course will experience bustling culture and cuisine while visiting Seoul, South Korea.

## Food & Culture Course Wins National Award For Curriculum Design

Avila University earned a national Clarion Award by the Association for Women in Communication for one of its innovative interdisciplinary courses, the Food & Culture Course (IS 366).

The award was given for curriculum design in the education category. The Association for Women in Communication only gives one award in this category each year, and the Avila course was selected among hundreds of submissions.

Dotty Hamilton, Ph.D., professor of communication and dean, and Eric Winter, assistant professor of art and design, formulated the unique course, which uses food as a lens to teach students about other cultures, as well as vital global issues surrounding food.

The courses were judged on syllabi, course assignments, research and measurable results based on student evaluations and comments.

"We also submitted our rationale and goals for designing the course," Hamilton said. "In our case, this course was inspired

by the mission of Avila University – to prepare students for responsible lifelong contributions to the global community."

Course assignments included traditional projects such as course readings, research papers and presentations as well as experiential – trips to Middle Eastern and Asian markets, eating at an Ethiopian restaurant where they heard a presentation on food and culture from the Ethiopian chef, a Google video chat with a South Korean student and a trip to Shatto Dairy Farm. Students could participate in extra activities including restaurant visits to learn about Vietnamese and vegan food.

In spring 2014, the course will be offered as a travel course with a trip to Seoul, South Korea.

"We're happy that we were chosen and hope it can bring more attention to Avila's innovative courses," Winter said. **A**

# Banner Awards Season for Viscom Students

It was a veritable gold rush last spring and summer for students in Avila University's School of Visual and Communication Arts as awards were won at regional, national and international levels.

**#1** Aimee Adams, a junior from Independence, Mo., received the 2013 Sharon Berzok Student Award from the International Association of Business Communicators (IABC). The award is the highest honor bestowed to a college student by the IABC, which since 1970 has provided a professional network of about 15,000 business communication professionals in more than 80 countries. Adams received a \$500 scholarship directed toward professional development, education and training.

"It's an amazing feeling to be recognized on an international level," Adams said. "I'm beyond blessed to be learning and working in a field I am so passionate about."

Adams earned the honor with her project, "The Glitter Run," which she created to raise money for cancer research and promote Paradise Park in Lee's Summit, Mo. as a place for family fun.

**#2** Adams also teamed with Jaclyn Wacha to win two gold Hermes Creative Awards, bestowed by the Association of Marketing and Communication Professionals.

A Corporate Communication Seminar student team of Austin Stockard, Quiana Haney, Josh Grimes, Emilee Bickleman, Christina Parisse, James Chapman and Peter Kondracki, received a gold award for their "Veteran's Voices" project, and Mary Katherine LaRose was honored with an honorable mention.

**#3** Adams, Stockard and Kelby Phelps received Awards of Merit at the KC/IABC Quills Gala May

2 in Kansas City. Adams was honored for "The Glitter Run," while Phelps and Stockard won for "Fight Club: Advocacy Program for Bullied Youth." The "Veteran's Voices" team picked up an award there as well.

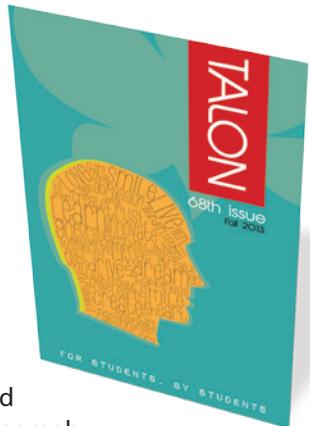
**#4** And, it was an "Elite 8" for *Talon* students as members of the *Talon* Media Network (TMN) brought home eight awards from the Missouri Collegiate Media Association 2013 Annual Conference April 21 in Joplin, Mo. TMN won first place, second place and received honorable mention for its advertising design; third-place awards

for sports columns and sports photography, third place and honorable mentions for its story illustrations and second place for its Web page coverage and design.

"It's always exciting to have other professionals in the journalism world show favor for your students' work and to have a measure of how their efforts stack up against other schools in the state," said J. Anthony Snorgrass, Ph.D., professor of advertising, branding and strategic media and the *Talon*'s faculty advisor. □



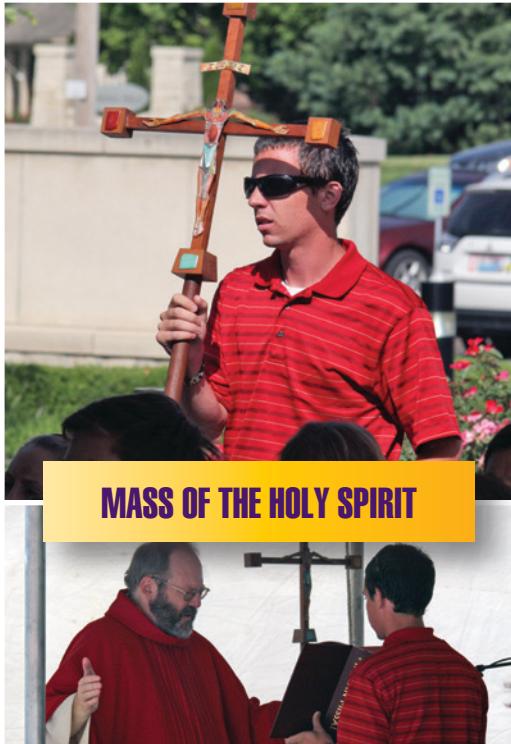
There were plenty of reasons to smile at this year's KC/IABC Quills Gala for award winners Kelby Phelps, Aimee Adams and Austin Stockard, pictured here with Linda Strelluf, M.A., assistant professor and IABC Student Chapter advisor.



# A LIVELY CAMPUS THRIVES!



AU KICK OFF CELEBRATION



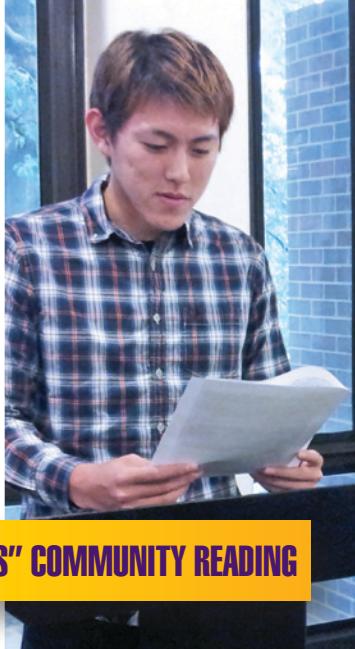
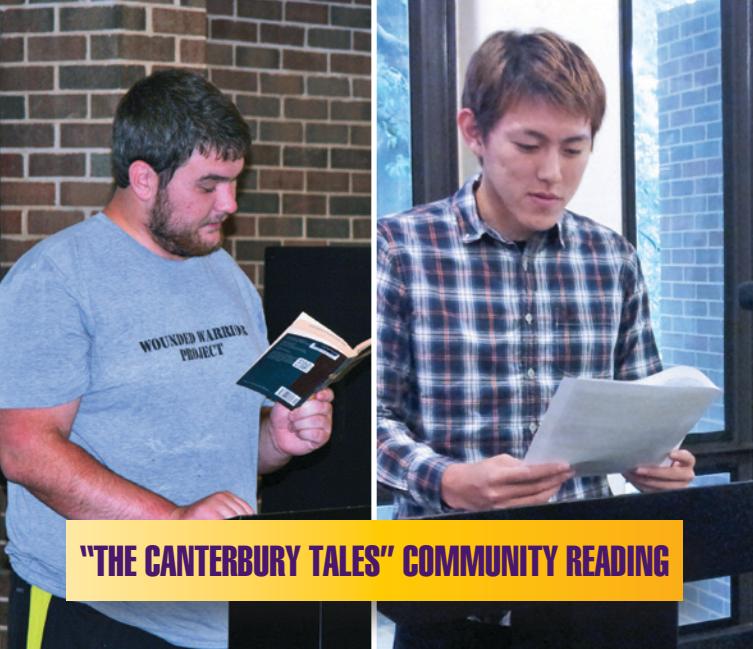
ETHNIC FOOD AND CULTURE FAIR



FOOTBALL TAILGATING



"THE CANTERBURY TALES" COMMUNITY READING



# Veteran Finds Welcoming Home at Avila

**A**s a son of a military family, Mark Guthrie was never really in one place long enough to put down roots.

Today, with the help of the GI Bill and Yellow Ribbon Program, Guthrie feels he finally established a solid home base in the Kansas City area and, more specifically, Avila University.

"This school's doors are wide open to veterans," said Guthrie, 28, who's pursuing his teaching certification to teach middle school mathematics. "I shopped a lot of schools, and none offered what Avila had."

"Going to school here not only gives me freedom with flexible scheduling, but it also allows me to pay my bills with the GI Bill and Yellow Ribbon. Yellow Ribbon has been a big help."

Growing up, Guthrie's life was filled with moving from place to place,



wherever his father was stationed at the time. Born in Hawaii, he lived most of his formative years in California. He traveled all the way to the Philippines to earn a bachelor's degree in civil engineering. After that, it only seemed natural that Guthrie would join the military himself, and he enlisted in the Marine Corps in Virginia Beach, Va. He was stationed in Camp Lejeune, N.C. for four years.

From November 2010 to June 2011, Guthrie found himself in Helmand Province, Afghanistan, serving as an artilleryman in the Marine Corps, manning medium-towed howitzers and supporting infantry units. It was not a great time, he said.

"It was like the movie, *Groundhog Day*," he said. "Every day we did the same thing. We all got pretty tired of each other. Every day, my executive officer suggested I go back to school, because the job I had demanded no mental skills whatsoever and he knew I had much more to offer."

Guthrie had relatives living in Independence, Mo. so decided to move yet again, this time to Middle America, and take his superior officer's advice. That's where he found Avila.

"Avila's Catholic heritage was a big plus, because I'm a devout Catholic," said Guthrie, who works during the day as a teacher's aid at a nearby parochial school. "The professors are very knowledgeable in their fields. I'm very confident that I'll have every piece of knowledge I'll need."

True to Avila's values-based mission, Guthrie said he's looking at his future in teaching as a service rather than a means of making a living.

"I just want to instill in students the values I grew up with," he said. ▀

## Avila Welcomes Veterans

As an education partner in the Yellow Ribbon program, a provision of the Post 9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act, Avila works with the Veterans Administration to fund tuition expenses for veterans and their families up to 100 percent.

That means qualified veterans or their family members can attend Avila for free!

Learn more at  
[www.avila.edu/  
 welcomeveterans](http://www.avila.edu/welcomeveterans)

 AVILA  
UNIVERSITY®  
*Opening Doors*

11901 Wornall Road, Kansas City, Missouri

816.501.2400

[veterans@avila.edu](mailto:veterans@avila.edu)

Sponsored by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet



More than 1,000 people returned to campus for 2013 Homecoming events and activities. Alumni and friends from six states, including New Jersey, California, Texas and Florida enjoyed reconnecting and reminiscing on Avila's beautiful campus. Former faculty and staff enjoyed tours of campus and seeing past colleagues while professors and deans welcomed back many of Avila's best and brightest. The School of Nursing celebrated 65 years of excellence during an anniversary luncheon and nearly 50 participated in the first Dom's Flight Alumni Pub Crawl. Sixteen alumni were recognized for their outstanding accomplishments at the annual Alumni Awards Ceremony and the Heritage Society welcomed eight new members during the Heritage Mass and Luncheon. Igor and Frankenstein stole the show during the sold-out dinner theatre and graduates from the College of St. Teresa toured their old stomping ground on the St. Teresa Academy tour.

Mark your calendars now...  
Homecoming 2014 is September 22-28!  
We can't wait to see you then!

## Honored Classes:

'48, '53, '58, '63, '68, '73, '78, '83, '88, '93, '98, '03, '08

## Former Faculty & Staff Reception



Pat Martin and S. Ruth Stuckel, CSJ visit at the annual Former Faculty and Staff Reception.



Charlene Gould, Ph.D., dean, College of Liberal Arts & Social Sciences, visits with former staff members Anita Pilleggi and Rita VanHook.

## Alumni Reunions



Mary Ellen Clark '73, 2013 Homecoming Co-Chair, and President Ron Slepitz, Ph.D., CSJA, reminisce over photos in past yearbooks.

## Dinner Theatre



Sue Fahey, Centennial Campaign Co-Chair, and Jeanne Olofson '92, '94, '11, Board Trustee, enjoy dinner, drinks and conversation at Dinner Theatre.



Mary Jo Bowman '58, Frances Lehan '58, Virginia Coppinger '58, Sheila Johnson '58, and Margaret Hembree '58 enjoy reconnecting with their 1958 classmates at the Class Reunions on Friday night.

## Heritage Luncheon



Members of the class of 1963 received their 50 year anniversary pin from President Ron Slepitzza, Ph.D., CSJA, at the Heritage Luncheon. Front: Rosemary Schocklee-Fusaro, Joyce Forbis, Barbara (Metzger) Frank, Betty Booker, Mary Oddo-Bridges, Barbara (Clark) Blickhan, Catherine (Iuen) Barron. Back: Sheila Rohrer, Jan (McBrien) Regan, Cathy (Butler) Owens, Mary O'Minski, Karen Mahoney, Jeanne Kies, Carol (Coleman) Sulzen.



Members of the class of 1948 enjoy reconnecting with each other and receiving their 65 year anniversary pin from President Slepitzza. Front: Mary (Schorfheide) Bolin, Mary Ann (Miller) Hense, Mary (Gent) Gordon, Jean (Male) Collins.



Jessie Fuller Clark (center), Heritage Society member and former staff member, enjoys connecting with S. Anna Schorfheide, CSJ '54 and her sister, Mary Bolin '48.

## Eagle Madness



Back by popular demand, the hypnotist has students under his trance at the annual Eagle Madness pep rally on Friday night.



The National Champion Avila Cheer Squad gets the crowd of students and alumni ready for the homecoming game.

## Tailgate Party



President Ron Slepitzza, Ph.D., CSJA, takes a moment to congratulate the 2013 Homecoming Queen, Arianne Henry, and King, Chance Alberswerth.



Molly Groebe '02, Alumni Board Member, enjoys the annual tailgate with her daughter Kaitlin and son Stephen.

## Alumni Pub Crawl



Alumni Crawlers stop the fun for a photo. About 50 alumni participated in the First Annual Dom's Flight Alumni Pub Crawl which benefits Avila's Scholarship Fund.



Cassi (Kline) Furderer '06 and Donna Jungman '05, 2013 Homecoming Co-Chair, get ready for the First Annual Dom's Flight Alumni Pub Crawl on Saturday night.

## Alumni Reception



Carol Jean DeFeo '68 finds her senior photo in the yearbook at the annual Alumni Reception held on Saturday evening.



Mary Ellen (Fischer) Clark '73, Laura Rupp '73, Cindy (Nicholson) Bichelmeyer '73, Kathee (Thibideau) Curran '73, and Debbie (Nickerson) Collins '73 enjoyed reconnecting at the Alumni Reception on Saturday night.

## Alumni Awards Luncheon



Laura Rupp '73, Debbie (Nickerson) Collins '73, Cindy (Nicholson) Bichelmeyer '73, Kay Tanner Scott and Mary Ellen (Fischer) Clark '73 attended the Alumni Awards Luncheon to celebrate with their classmate, Elaine Domian '73, Ph.D. (center), who was awarded the 2013 Alumni Achievement Award.



1948 Honored Class Alumni Awardee, Mary Ann Hense, with her husband and daughters at the annual Alumni Awards Luncheon on Sunday.

# 2013 Alumni Awards Recipients



## Ana Valdez '96

### Outstanding Alumni Award

Director of Operations at Truman Medical Centers Corporate Academy; Avila Board of Trustee Member Kansas City, Missouri



## Keith Richcreek '05, '08, '11

### Lifetime Alumni Board Member Award

Manager of Technical Services at the Lafayette Regional Medical Center; Avila Alumni Board Member Kansas City, Missouri



## Suzanne Slepitzka

### Honorary Alumni Award

Executive Assistant at Cornerstone Bank; First Lady of Avila Leawood, Kansas



## Kari (Donnell) Clevenger '00, '06

### Recent Alumni Award

Assistant Dean of Avila Advantage Raymore, Missouri



## Kristofer Turnbow '81

### Alumni Service Award

Retired Chief of Police and Executive Director of the Missouri Peace Officers Association Raymore, Missouri



## Charlene Martin '63

### 1963 Honored Class Award

Retired Department of Defense Dependent School Teacher San Antonio, Texas



## Elaine Domian '73, Ph.D.

### Alumni Achievement Award

Clinical Associate Professor at the University of Kansas Medical Center Kansas City, Missouri



## Bobbie (Hafner) Courville '58

### 1958 Honored Class Award

Community Volunteer Kansas City, Missouri



## Tamela Handie '93, '99

### Graduate Alumni Award

Budget Analyst for the City of Kansas City, MO and is an Avila Alumni Board Member Kansas City, Missouri



## Mary Ann (Miller) Hense '48

### 1948 Honored Class Award

Community Volunteer Overland Park, Kansas

# 2013 Academic Awards Recipients



## Wendy (Parks) Acker '88, Ph.D.

### School of Business Alumni Award

Associate Dean of School of Business and Director of MBA Program at Avila University Lee's Summit, Missouri



## Joni (Brown) Tiller '78

### School of Nursing Alumni Award

Chief Nursing Officer and Vice President of Patient Care Services at Integris Baptist Medical Center Norman, Oklahoma



## Erin (Wilson) Oligschlaeger '02

### School of Education Alumni Award

Director of District Student Services in the Excelsior Springs School District Nelson, Missouri



## Ibraheem Badejo '84, Ph.D.

### School of Science & Health Alumni Award

Director of Applied Research and a Research Fellow at Ethnico, a Johnson & Johnson Company Ringoes, New Jersey



## Karen (Schuss) Rowinsky '06

### College of Liberal Arts & Social Sciences Alumni Award

Licensed Clinical Social Worker Leawood, Kansas



## Amy Young '00

### School of Visual & Communication Arts Alumni Award

Associate Creative Director at Muller Bressler Brown Kansas City, Missouri

# UPCOMING EVENTS

**November 14, 2013 • 8:00-10:00 PM, Foyle Hall Chapel**

## Evening of Prayer and Adoration

Join Avila students during this evening of prayer & adoration, or send us a special prayer intention to be remembered during the evening by emailing [vanessa.herring@avila.edu](mailto:vanessa.herring@avila.edu).

**January 25, 2014**

## Avila Alumni Ski Night

Pack your mittens and hats...it's Ski Night! Hit the slopes with friends and family from 5 – 11pm in Weston, MO. Discounted tickets are available by calling the alumni office or registering on the website.

**February 1, 2014**

## Pack the House! Alumni Basketball

Prove that you've still got what it takes on the court. Sign up online or by calling the alumni office.

**February 15, 2014 • 6:00 PM**

## 38th Annual Avila Steer Dinner

**Kansas City Marriott Downtown, Muehlebach Tower**

Save the Date! Benefitting the Scholarship Fund for the students of Avila University. Information about sponsorships and tickets at [www.avila.edu/steer](http://www.avila.edu/steer) or by calling Robin Rowland at 816.501.2450.

**April 25, 2014**

## Great Wolf Lodge Alumni Weekend

Pack your swimsuits and bring the kids! This popular annual event sells out quickly, so make your reservations soon! Visit the alumni website or call the alumni office for more information on making your reservation.

**May 8, 2014**

## Alumni at Last Bash

Help us welcome our newest alumni into the Alumni Association! RSVP online or by calling the alumni office.

**May 15, 2014**

## Annual Donor BBQ

What better way to say "Thank You" than with BBQ? Join us as we celebrate all our Avila Donors. RSVP online or by calling the alumni office.

**June 7, 2014**

## Alumni Day at Worlds of Fun & Oceans of Fun

Two parks in one! Buy your tickets early for this annual favorite. Visit the website for more information or to reserve your tickets.

**Find out about the latest Alumni news and activities by following us on social media. The Alumni Association is on Facebook and LinkedIn and we want to hear from you.**

**You can also sign up for alumni newsletters and special emails at [avila.edu/alumni](http://avila.edu/alumni) or call 816.501.3780.**



Sara Boen '12 receives her Outstanding Beginning Teachers Award.



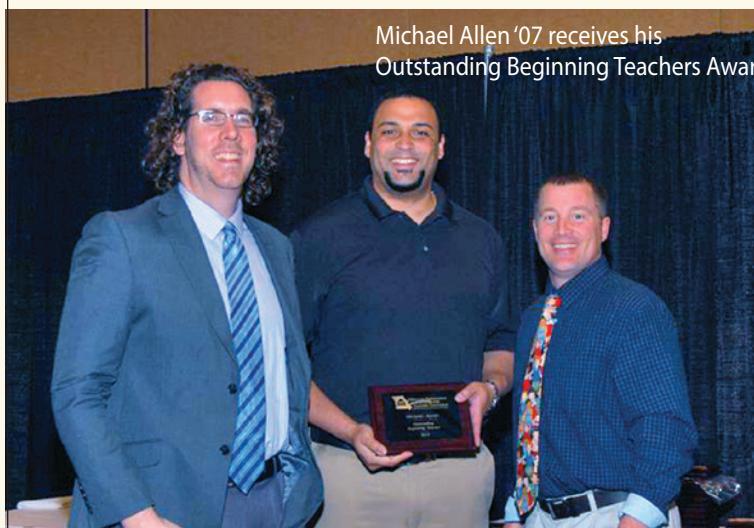
## Alums Recognized as Outstanding Teachers

**A** vila University alums recently were named Outstanding Beginning Teachers by the Missouri Association for Colleges of Teacher Education (MACTE).

Sara Boen '12 teaches first grade at Chinn Elementary in the Park Hill School District in Kansas City, Mo. Michael Allen '07 received his teaching certification from Avila and is teaching seventh-grade science at Moreland Ridge Middle School in the Blue Springs, Mo. School District.

At the spring conference of MACTE, 64 outstanding teachers were recognized for their excellence in serving children during their first two years of service in school districts across Missouri. Award recipients were selected based on evaluations of outstanding graduates completed by their college or university and recommendations from the school district which deemed the teacher as highly effective in their first two years in the classroom. ▲

Michael Allen '07 receives his Outstanding Beginning Teachers Award.





## Classes of the 1940s Luncheon

Alumni who graduated in the 1940's reconnected at a luncheon held on campus July 19, 2013. Attendees enjoyed reminiscing with their classmates over past issues of the *The Teresian* newspaper which were on display from the Avila Archives. If you are interested in organizing a class lunch or dinner, please contact the alumni office at 816.501.3780.

## Class Alumni Partner Dinner

Class Alumni Partners (CAPS) enjoyed dinner and reconnecting with each other during the annual Class Alumni Partner Dinner on August 1, 2013. President Ron Slepitzka, Ph.D., CSJA, provided a campus update before kicking off the official season of homecoming with a planning session. If you are interested in becoming a CAP, please contact the alumni office at 816.501.3780 or visit [avila.edu/alumni](http://avila.edu/alumni).

## Avila on the Road

Avila Alumni in the Chicago area gathered for a rooftop picnic hosted by Tom and Jeanne '92, '94, '11 Olofson on September 26, 2013.



# CHICAGO





# Alumni Soccer Games

Avila alumni from across the country came back to campus to scrimmage the current men's and women's soccer teams on Saturday, August 17, 2013. More than 30 alumni men and 25 alumni women enjoyed the competitive game, reconnecting with friends and a post-game happy hour.

**Mark your calendars for next year's game: Saturday, August 16, 2014!**



## AVILA ALUMNI BOARD: 2013–2014

Laura (Wilkerson) Barr '04  
Community Volunteer

Carol Jean (Stipetich) DeFeo '68  
Alumni Board Awards Chair  
Community Volunteer

John DeRoo '07  
Time Warner Cable

Cassi (Kline) Furderer '05  
ProForma Promotionally Yours

Molly Groebe '02  
Rebel, Inc.

Kat Guyer '11  
Macy's

Tamela Handie '93, '99  
City of Kansas City, MO

Margaret Henry '01  
Notre Dame de Sion

Rebecca (Higinbothom) Henry '05 '08  
Alumni Board President 13-14  
Sprint

Donna Jungman '06  
2013 Homecoming Co-Chair  
Honeywell

Regina Maddux '09  
The Goddard School

Cecile O'Hara '10  
Shook, Hardy & Bacon

Brian Poterbin '07  
Veterans United Home Loans

Valerie Reed '10  
Kansas City Police Credit Union

Keith Richcreek '05, '08, '11  
Lafayette Regional Medical Center

Michele Sanders '85  
Harcos Chemicals, Inc.

Michael Stolberg '09  
President Elect  
Lawing Financial

Jacob Zinn '11  
Townsend Communications

## Alumni Cruise

*Paris to Normandy's  
Landing Beaches*

**Sept. 30 – Oct. 7, 2014**

**Paris • Vernon • Rouen • Les Andelys • Conflans**



**E**njoy unmatched service, sumptuous cuisine, panoramic views, first-class amenities, and spacious staterooms as you cruise through France on the Avalon Creativity. You'll be comfortable, relaxed, and fully engaged with the passing French countryside as you cruise between Paris and Rouen. The trip includes welcome reception, meals, and guided excursions to Giverny, Bizy Castle, the Astronomical Clock, Normandy landing beaches, Chateau Gaillard, Auvers-sur-Oise and Chateau de Malmaison.

**For additional information,  
please contact the Alumni Office:**

**816.501.3780**



## from Avila's Social Network

"We loved kicking off work with our new client Avila University as they begin a new school year. Check out 2013 Move-In Day [www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=86584](http://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=86584)" *Facebook post – Trozzolo Communications Group*

"A strong focus on ethics and an inspiring support staff that always have a smile and a helping hand for those who need it. (And as an Advantage student, I must say an awesome adult program!!!! I love the Advantage team!)" *Facebook post on Avila's Advantage Adult Student programs – Amy Murphy*

"This was a thrill and an honor. Thank you so much for having me!"  
*Facebook post – Bob Harris*

Author, *The International Bank of Bob*, and featured speaker at the Harry S. Truman Distinguished Lecture Series

"Avila's providing a forum for Bob Harris was a farsighted and brilliant way of introducing your students to an amazingly successful international effort to ameliorate world hunger and poverty. This knowledge guarantees an informed and hopefully active Kansas City contingency." *Excerpt from letter on the Harry S. Truman Distinguished Lecture Series – JoAnn Field, Founder, Kansas City Women Go Global*

"Caring professors that treat you as a person and not a number. Avila gives you the feeling of home." *Facebook post – Jaime Taylor-Hammond*

"Purple has taken over Harvesters today! Lots of @AvilaUniversity freshmen here volunteering their time. Thanks!" *Twitter – @HarvestersOrg*

"Attended a wonderful luncheon yesterday to celebrate the 65th anniversary of the Avila University nursing program. We enjoyed listening to great speakers, honoring some great traditional values, and meeting some of the young current students in the program. The nursing students at my table were very impressive, and seem up to the healthcare challenges that are ahead. Thank you Deborah Largo-Mesley and Kathleen Henderson for the great afternoon together to celebrate our memories from Avila!" *Facebook post on the 65th Anniversary Nursing Celebration luncheon – Denise Gnefekow '79*

## Visit the NEW Avila Bookstore E-commerce Website!

**Spiritwear & Clothing**  
**Hats & Blankets**  
**Avila Gifts & Accessories**



**<http://bookstore.avila.edu>**

## Future Eagles!



We know future Avila University students are dreaming of opening doors and soaring to new heights. As alumni, we value your opinion. We want to know great students that you know.

We welcome your recommendations for prospective students at [avila.edu/alumni/inquiry.asp](http://avila.edu/alumni/inquiry.asp).

*Today, 98% of our students are awarded financial aid. As a matter of fact, Avila awards more than \$11 million annually in financial aid to deserving students.*

Your contributions make this possible.  
 Make a difference in a student's life today!  
[avila.edu/give](http://avila.edu/give)

**'48 Mary Ann (Miller) Hense** received the 1948 Honored Class Award at the 2013 Alumni Awards Luncheon during Homecoming. The award was presented to Mary Ann by lifelong friend and fellow classmate, Jean Collins '48.

**'58 Kathryn Murphy** married Vince Murphy, the brother of Maureen Murphy Halpin. Vince had a career opportunity in Ohio so they moved to Columbus, Ohio and had one son, Michael Norman Murphy. Kathryn went to work as a teacher for the Columbus, Ohio Public Schools and was promoted to Reading Specialist with several schools assigned to her. She thoroughly enjoyed working for the Columbus Schools and living in Ohio. Meanwhile, her son Michael attended St. Louis University for both his undergraduate and MBA degrees. He now works as an International Contracts Specialist for Boeing Inc. Since her son was living on campus, it was possible for her to accept a job which called for some travel. She accepted a position in pharmaceutical sales with Marion Labs of Kansas City and later worked for Johnson & Johnson. She was fortunate enough to be the winner of many sales contests with both companies and enjoyed this career as well! Kathryn retired in 2004. Now that she has the opportunity to look back on her life and career, she feels that she was given a great gift of having an education from Avila with the Sisters of St. Joseph. She thanks God for Avila University!

**'58 Bobbie (Hafner) Courville** received the 1958 Honored Class Award at the 2013 Alumni Awards Luncheon during Homecoming. The award was presented to Bobbie by fellow classmate and friend, Virginia Coppinger '58.

**'63 Barbara (Clark) Blickhan** lives in Kansas City, Missouri and has worked as a medical technologist, in Family data processing, in service for Catholic churches and schools for more than 25 years. She also has worked as a bookkeeper at St. Thomas More church for 15 years. She has four children and eight grandchildren. Her hobbies include collecting cookbooks, reading, and playing bridge. Although she is not involved in volunteer work at this moment, she plans to do so as soon as she retires.

**'63 Betty Booker** resides in Prairie Village, Kansas and worked as a teacher at the school of St. Agnes in Roeland Park, Kansas for 45 years. She is now enjoying retirement. Betty continues to stay involved with Avila University as a Class Alumni Partner.

**'63 Ruby (Freeman) Bruce** lives in Kansas City, Kansas with her husband Carl. She worked in the hospital setting, public health, in industrial nursing, and 26 years in

school nursing. Ruby has two children and two grandchildren. Her hobbies include traveling, reading, playing bridge, and loves holiday preparations. Ruby's volunteer work includes helping church groups and is an active member with a sickle cell anemia charity.

**'63 Evelyn Bruegger** resides in Columbus, Nebraska and has worked as a teacher at the community college level and was a department head in communications. She has four children, nine grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. Evelyn is retired but keeps busy. Her hobbies include enjoying her long-time friendships and playing bridge. Evelyn's volunteer work includes helping in a local hospice, charity work, and Crime Stoppers.

**'63 Dorothy (Stewart) Cameron** lives in Kansas City, Missouri and has held a number of different jobs including working as a beauty operator, elementary and secondary school teacher, and a high school counselor for 30 years. Dorothy is married to Isaac, and has one son. As a retiree, she enjoys ballroom dancing, traveling, and teaches Bible school.

**'63 Joyce (Diel) Forbis** lives in West Tawakoni, Texas and is married to William. Together they have three children. Joyce has four grandchildren. Her hobbies include gardening, reading, cooking, and traveling. She spent most of her time volunteering when her children were in school, and she volunteers at the Tawakoni Civic Club, Arrowhead Homeowners Assoc., Dallas Camera Club, and church.

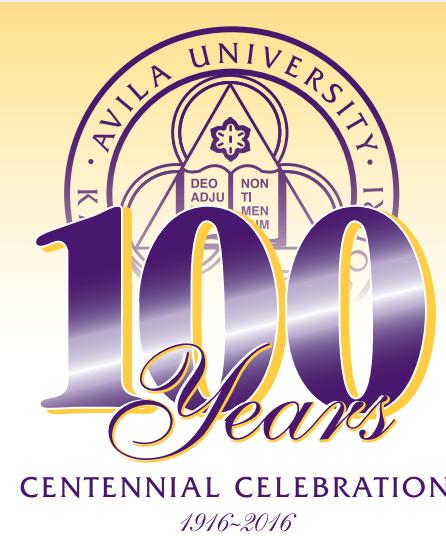
**'63 Barbara (Metzger) Frank** is retired and lives in Prairie Village, Kansas. Barbara was a stay-at-home-mom, freelance writer, bookkeeper for her family business, nursing assistant merchandiser, massage therapist, and page at the Linda Hall Library. She has seven children and 25 grandchildren. Her hobbies include yoga, home improvement, studying guitar, and learning Italian.

**'63 Rosemary (Gumminger) Shocklee-Fusaro** lives in Naples, Florida with her husband Carlo and has worked in Nursing Education for over 49 years and is still going! She has completed her MA, MSN, and has worked on her PhD. Currently, Rosemary is an Adjunct Professor at Florida Gulf Coast University. She has seven children, eight grandchildren and one great-grandchild on the way. She loves to spend time with her grandchildren, reading, going out with friends, and spending time near or on oceans (just not in it!). During the spring of 2013, Rosemary hosted an alumni reception for Avila Alumni in the Naples area.

**'63 Rosanel Gulotta** has worked as First Assistant in operating rooms for five cardiovascular, cardiac, and thoracic surgeons. Rosanel has one daughter and one grandson, with whom she travels with whenever time permits.

**'63 Gayle (Danzo) Johnson** lives in Leawood, Kansas and was a mathematics teacher for high school and college (AP courses). She is currently the National President AIC -Ladies of Charity, USA and International Board AIC (2011-12). She has four children. Some of her hobbies include ballroom dancing, gardening, and knitting. Her volunteer work includes board service with AIC-USA for eight years, Seton Center Duchesne Clinic and St. Joseph Medical Center.

**'63 Joyce Loehner** lives in Napa, California and worked as a RN Clinical Specialist and educator. She has three children and two grandchildren. Joyce enjoys playing golf, gardening, playing cards and participates in book clubs. Apart from her family and hobbies, Joyce volunteers at a local Catholic Library, her parish, a senior center, and at St. Apollarnis'Women's Guild.



## We want to hear from you!

Avila's Centennial Celebration is coming in 2016 and the plans have begun.

Send us your memories, photographs and stories to **Bob Luder**, Public Relations Specialist, via email at [bob.luder@avila.edu](mailto:bob.luder@avila.edu), on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/avilauniversity](http://www.facebook.com/avilauniversity) or postal mail us at: Avila University, Office of Marketing and Communications, 11901 Wornall Road, Kansas City, MO 64145. Be sure to include your current address and phone number.

*As Avila's 100-year plans develop, we'll keep you informed, so you can be part of the celebration!*

**'63 Charlene Martin** recently retired to San Antonio, Texas after completing an exciting career teaching abroad for 43 years with the Department of Defense Dependent Schools--schools on military bases. Charlene has taught around the globe, including Philippines, Japan, Turkey, and Panama. She was sorry to have missed the 50-year class reunion at Homecoming - she was in India on a volunteer teaching trip. Charlene is a recipient of the 2013 Honored Class Award.

**'63 Mary Ann (Fitzsimmons) Muehlebach** resides in Mission, Kansas and worked as a RN in various specialties at Menorah Medical Center from 1963-1995. She then worked as House Supervisor at Research Medical Center from 1995-2012. She has three children. Her hobbies include playing bridge, watching indie-genre films, and reading. Her volunteer work includes helping at the KC Repertory Theatre, Plaza Art Fair, and Seton Center.

**'63 Patricia (Benoist) O'Daniel** lives in Prescott Valley, Arizona and is married to Kenneth. They have two children and four grandchildren. She stays busy playing baseball, tennis, bike riding, and reading. Patricia focuses a majority of her time volunteering: she visits nursing homes and keeps patients company, and also calls individuals on her church's prayer list.

**'63 Mary (Imming) Ominski** lives near the Avila campus in Leawood, Kansas. Mary was a teacher for 32 years. She is married to Julian and together they have three children. Mary enjoys cooking in her spare time and volunteering at her church and local schools.

**'63 Jan (McBrien) Regan** lives in Fairway, Kansas with her husband Mike. She worked as a teacher, hostess for TWA, and a mother of two, all while developing her own program on the history of Kansas City when she completed her master's degree. In 1984, Jan developed the Sunday Night Dinner Program at Ronald McDonald House and has volunteered with the program every Sunday for the past 29 years!

**'63 Linda (Supancic) Riley** lives in Lee's Summit, Missouri with her husband John. She was a teacher in the Kansas City School District for 28 years and has one daughter. Now that she is retired, Linda enjoys spending time with her two grandchildren, walking, watching TV, and going to the casino. She also volunteers at the John Knox Thrift Shop.

**'63 Frances (Aguirre) Rog** lives in Blue Springs, Missouri and has dedicated her time to teaching at the Bishop Helmsing Early Childhood Center and KCMO elementary and high schools. She retired in 1998

at 68 years old, but kept busy by organizing Spanish lessons for 1st-8th graders at St. John Le-Lande School. Frances has seven children, 11 grandchildren, and 15 great-grandchildren. Frances loves volunteering; she takes trips to El Salvador to deliver books to mountain villages to promote literacy and education to under developed countries.

**'63 Shelia Rohrer** lives in Lenexa, Kansas and was a teacher for 30+ years, after earning graduate degrees in Special Education from the University of Missouri-Kansas City and University of Kansas. She is now enjoying retirement traveling the world, pursuing life-long interests in nature and wildlife. Her hobbies include wildlife photography, golf, and bridge. Shelia also enjoys volunteering at the Ladies of Charity, Daughters of Isabelle, AAUM (University of Women), and Eucharistic Minister for Holy Trinity Catholic Churches in Lenexa.

**'63 Carol (Coleman) Sulzen** lives in Arlington, Texas. She has worked in a number of hospitals -St. Mary's Hospital for six years, Arlington Memorial Hospital for 10 years, and as an evening supervisor for Infection Control for 11 years. Carol has also worked for American Airlines, as a head nurse at clinics, and earned COHN-S Certification in nurse case management. Carol is married to John, and together they have three children and seven grandchildren. She enjoys spending time with her family, friends, playing bridge, and traveling. Her volunteer work includes preparing meals for Meals on Wheels in her community.

**'68 Carol Jean DeFeo** was installed as membership chair of the Truman Medical Center Auxiliary Hospital Hill on June 7, 2013. Carol Jean also serves as the Chair of the Avila University Alumni Awards Committee and is a Lifetime Alumni Board Member.

**'73 Elaine Domian, Ph.D.** received the Alumni Achievement Award at the 2013 Alumni Awards Luncheon during Homecoming. She currently serves as Clinical Associate Professor at the University of Kansas Medical Center

**'75 Sharon Jacobs** worked for many years as a counselor with the Kansas City Kansas Housing Authority. Now retired, Sharon enjoys volunteering at Manor Care of Overland Park and is a faithful member of Our Saviour Lutheran Church in Kansas City, Kansas.

**'76 Ruth Jones** works in an academic setting and chairs the Allied Health Division. She holds the office of treasurer for the Missouri League of Nursing.

**'76 Sr. MaryAnn Hartmann, MMB** During MaryAnn's Junior year at Avila, the call of the Lord changed everything. After

graduation and her initial formation in religious life as a Mercedarian Missionary of Berriz, she was missioned to Micronesia, a group of islands in the Western Pacific. As a sister, she has served in many roles, including nursing, social services, education, and retreat direction. She is coordinating the care of their senior sisters in Saipan, while still giving retreats and looking forward to see what other surprises the Lord may have in store in the years ahead.

**'78 Joni (Brown) Tiller** received the School of Nursing Alumni Award at the 2013 Alumni Awards Luncheon during Homecoming. Joni is the chief nursing officer and vice president of Patient Care Services at Integris Baptist Medical Center in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

**'81 Kristofer Turnbow** received the Alumni Service Award at the 2013 Alumni Awards Luncheon during Homecoming. Kristofer served 21 years with the Raytown Police Department - nearly 14 of those years as chief of police and now holds the position of executive director of the Missouri Peace Officers Association.

**'84 James Wright** is now an agent with New York Life Insurance Company in Overland Park, KS

**'84 Ibraheem Badejo, Ph.D.** received the School of Science & Health Alumni Award at the 2013 Alumni Awards Luncheon during Homecoming. Ibraheem is employed by Ethnico, a Johnson and Johnson Company, as director of applied research and a research fellow, and is the recipient of 24 U.S. Patents, one Canadian patent and close to 100 issued patents worldwide.

**'86 Teresa Killian** teaches middle school math and religion in Sunset Hills, Missouri at St. Justin the Martyr. She has five children and one grandchild.

**'88 Wendy (Parks) Acker, Ph.D.** received the School of Business Alumni Award at the 2013 Alumni Awards Luncheon during Homecoming.

**'89 Penny Scott** has enjoyed her nursing degree and has worked in a variety of different positions in hospitals. Penny worked at St. Joseph for over a decade and resigned that position in 2010. She is a school nurse for the Raymore Peculiar school district and is looking forward to having summers off with her three kids.

**'93, '99 Tamela Handie** received the Graduate Alumni Award at the 2013 Alumni Awards Luncheon during Homecoming. Tamela is a Budget Analyst for the City of Kansas City, MO and serves on the Avila Alumni Board.

**'96 Ana Valdez** received the Outstanding Alumni Award at the 2013 Alumni Awards Luncheon during Homecoming.

Ana is the director of operations at Truman Medical Centers Corporate Academy and is an Avila Board of Trustee.

**'00, '06 Kari (Donnell) Clevenger** received the Recent Alumni Award at the 2013 Alumni Awards Luncheon during Homecoming. Kari is the assistant dean of Avila Advantage, and a member of the Avila University Athletic Hall of Fame.

**'00 Amy Young** received the School of Visual & Communication Arts Alumni Award at the 2013 Alumni Awards Luncheon during Homecoming. Amy is employed with Muller Bressler Brown as Associate Creative Director.



**'00 Jeanette (Gebauer) West** and her husband, Dan, welcomed twin girls born July 9, 2012. Graceyn Renee (11:34pm) and Addelyn Riley (11:36pm) are happy, healthy and growing like weeds.

**'01 Lindsay G. Hartley** received her MSN in May 2013 and is working as a Women's Health Nurse Practitioner for a local OB/GYN office.

**'02 Erin (Wilson) Oligschlaeger** received the School of Education Alumni Award at the 2013 Alumni Awards Luncheon during Homecoming.



**'02 Molly (Kennedy) Groebe** and her husband Matt welcomed Stephen Matthew Groebe on May 4, 2013 at 8:41 am. Stephen weighed 6 pounds, 4 ounces and joins older sister Kaitlin. Molly is an Avila Alumni Board Member and was recently named the Director of Development and Operations at Rebel, Inc..



**'05 Kevin Larson** and his wife, Sarah, welcomed son Charlie on July 19, 2013. Charlie weighed 8 pounds, 2 ounces and was 22 inches long. Charlie joins big brother Kevin.

**'05, '08, '11 Keith Richcreek** received the Lifetime Alumni Board Member Award at the 2013 Alumni Awards Luncheon during Homecoming. Keith is the manager of technical services at the Lafayette Regional Medical Center and has served on the Alumni Board in various leadership positions, including president.

**'06 Karen (Schuss) Rowinsky** received the College of Liberal Arts & Social Sciences Alumni Award at the 2013 Alumni Awards Luncheon during Homecoming. Karen is working as a licensed clinical social worker in Kansas. She previously held positions at The Family Conservancy and the Kansas City Free Health Clinic.



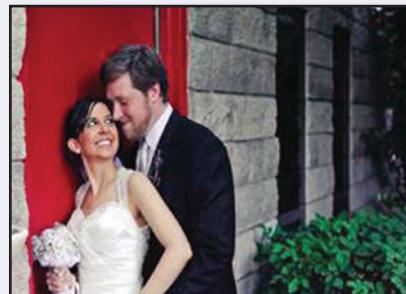
**'07 Chequila Daniels** welcomed her first child, a boy named Zaelyn Lamar Daniels on March 13, 2013 at 9:02am. Zaelyn was 6 pounds, 6 ounces and 18 inches long.

**'08 Jill Radovich** is living in Chicago and working full-time for Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center, a level one trauma center in the city. She is working on her Master's of Science in Nursing and slated to graduate in May 2015 as a Family Nurse Practitioner.



**'09 Jacqui (Drummond) Onken**, and her husband Travis, welcomed their daughter Eva Marie Onken on June 21, 2012. She weighed 5 pounds 14 ounces and measured 19 inches. After complications and 10 days at Children's Mercy, Eva was healthy and went home for the first time, to Savannah, MO. The family moved back to their hometown of Memphis, MO in February 2013, where Jacqui became a stay-at-home mom/daycare provider. The couple entertained with friends and family to celebrate Eva's 1st birthday on June 22, 2013.

**'09 Ann Zimmer** welcomed a new daughter, Madeline Ann, on February 2, 2013.



**'10 Cristina (Baker) Cowan** was married to Joshua James Cowan on June 1, 2013 at St. Thomas More University Parish in Norman, OK. A reception was held the following Saturday in Kansas City's crossroads district. Cristina works at Avila University as an admissions representative. Josh, a Kansas State University graduate, works at Service Management Group.

**'10 Johanna (Struckhoff) Trentmann** married Jeffrey Trentmann on May 11, 2013.

**'10 David Wilson** recently left the newspaper business with the Independence Examiner and accepted a position

## Stay Connected!

We want to hear from you!

Job promotion, new baby, recent travels, new home? Let us know so we can share your good news!

Email your news to [alumni@avila.edu](mailto:alumni@avila.edu) or check out the Class Notes form at [avila.edu/alumni](http://avila.edu/alumni).

with GTM as the California Territory Sport Representative in Manhattan, KS. After completing the move, he also completed the finishing touches on a book of poetry and is actively pursuing publication.

**'12 Teresa Johnston** took a full time job with Tennessee Oncology in Nashville, Tennessee shortly after finishing her MSOD at Avila. She is responsible for talent development at the company, which includes Employee Engagement Survey, Performance Management, Leadership Development, and other projects.



**'12 Christina Parisse** and her husband, Josh, welcomed their first child, Tessa Jean Parisse, September 14, 2013. Tessa was 7 pounds, 8 ounces and 19 inches long. Josh is a current employee in the Office of Undergraduate Admission working on his master's in psychology. Christina will be staying at home with their new baby and pursuing her photography career.

**'13 Alex (Charron) Witt** married **Brian Witt '10** on June 15, 2013. Alex is a hospital therapist at Crittenton Children's Center. Brian is a teacher in the Belton School District. They reside in Lee's Summit, MO.

**'13 Vanessa Watson** received her RN license in July 2013. She works in hospice for John Knox Village and finds helping the residents and families so rewarding. She is grateful for the way the nursing program is structured and the great instructors who did a good job preparing her classmates for NCLEX.

2013 Annual Phon-A-Thon

You made it a success!

Thank you to the more than 560 alumni that answered the call of the 2013 Fall Phonathon student callers and helped us raise more than \$50,000 for the Scholarship Fund!

Did you miss our call? It's not too late to send in your annual fund gift for this year! Contact Bailey Carr at 816.501.3636 for more information.

# in memoriam

**'36 Marie Tucker** passed away April 15, 2013. Marie earned an associate of arts in general studies from the College of St. Teresa, now Avila University.

**'49 Jo Ann Murphy Coglin** passed away June 21, 2013 at the age of 84. She received her bachelor of arts in sociology from the College of St. Teresa's, now Avila University. A second-grade teacher in the Kansas City, Mo. School District for many years, she took great pride in being one of the first graduates from St. Teresa's to be hired by the Kansas City School District.

**'56 Mary Anita Burns** passed away April 17, 2013. She received a nursing diploma from the College of St. Teresa, now Avila University.

**'57 Joy Hubbard** passed away April 7, 2013. She received a bachelor of arts in English from the College of St. Teresa, now Avila University.

**'62 Marieann Rose Koehler** passed away Aug. 13, 2013. She received a bachelor of arts in home economics from the College of St. Teresa, now Avila University.

**'63 Judith Ann Palmer** passed away April 15, 2013. She received a bachelor of arts in history from Avila University, then Avila College.

**'64 Helen White** passed away March 2, 2013. She received a bachelor of arts in biology from Avila College, now Avila University.

**'66 Noma Louise Schoneman** passed away April 5, 2013. She received a bachelor of arts in education from Avila College, now Avila University.

**'69 Dorothy Doherty** passed away March 30, 2013. She received a bachelor's in social work from Avila University, then Avila College.

**'74 Charlene Austin** passed away May 29, 2013. She received her bachelor of arts in elementary education from Avila University, then Avila College.

**'75 Edward House** passed away May 30, 2013. Edward received a bachelor of arts in the administration of justice from Avila University, then Avila College.

**'78 Carl Swigart** passed away May 17, 2013. He received a bachelor of arts in business management from Avila College, now Avila University.

**'79 Joan Ritty** passed away March 2, 2013. Joan earned a bachelor of arts in English from Avila College, now Avila University.

**'80 Muriel Wildman**, 91, passed away peacefully May 28, 2013. Born in the Bronx, N.Y., Wildman began her first career in 1943 at the then-new Pentagon in Washington, D.C. When her children were in their teens, she returned to school and earned her bachelor's in social work from Avila University, then Avila College.

**'91 Sherry Krug** passed away Oct. 4, 2013. Sherry received a bachelor of science in elementary education from Avila University, then Avila College.

**'94 Carolyn Ann Saladino Accurso** passed away May 19, 2013 at the age of 41. She earned a bachelor of arts in English from then-Avila College. She assisted her husband, Joe, in operating his restaurant and catering business and was loving wife and mother to Joe and daughter Charlie Rose.

**'95 Merla Booth Temple** passed away Sept. 19, 2013. She earned a bachelor of arts in music from Avila University, then Avila College.

**'09 Walter Johnson** passed away July 26, 2013. He earned his master's in business administration with a concentration in general management from Avila University.

**'13 Paris Walkup** passed away Sept. 30, 2013 in a tragic hiking accident in the Rocky Mountains near Denver. Paris received his bachelor's in nursing from Avila University, where he also played four seasons on the Eagles football team.

**S. Anna Schlett, CSJ**, 84, passed away Sept. 27, 2013 in St. Louis. S. Anna was registrar at Avila College for quite some time during the early days. She continued living in Kansas City with good friend S. Ann Schorfeide until moving to Nazareth Living Center in St. Louis about two years ago. Her family and many sisters were with her at the time of her passing.

**Jean A. Moran**, 87, passed away Aug. 28, 2013. Moran, who earned a bachelor's degree in mathematics from Mount St. Scholastica College in 1948, taught mathematics for years at Avila University.

To make a memorial gift, please visit [avila.edu/give](http://avila.edu/give)  
or call 816.501.2450

# Shifting Geer

It's unlikely that many know the responsibilities of a faculty athletic representative, but Fred Geer, Ph.D., knew the role well and should after holding that job at Avila University for the past 39 years.

As a professor in the school of education and psychology, Geer, an avid sports lover, fit perfectly into his role. But, after nearly four decades of attending meetings and dealing with eligibility issues and violations, Geer decided to step down from his position in May and enjoy retirement.

"I just thought it was time," Geer said. "The last few years I have put in a tremendous amount of hours."

As the faculty athletic representative, Geer had many responsibilities in making sure the athletic department ran without a hitch, including eligibility for each team, interaction with the athletic director and coaches and attending conference meetings. Along with a full list of other duties, Geer focused more on being a mentor to the athletes and focusing on their athletics and their education.

"I think you have to think of future students as we go down the road," he said. "What will they need? We need to make sure they're well taken care of."

Along with his full-time job duties, Geer is also an avid contributor to the women's golf team, given by way of payroll deductions. Being a fan of the sport and also a father to a daughter who played golf through college at Truman University, it only seemed fitting.

After retiring as faculty athletic representative, Geer still has his hands in athletics working with the NAIA Learning Disability Advising Committee, which makes determinations for students who have a diagnosed learning disability in regard to their NAIA eligibility.



When you think about being part of a community like Avila for 39 years, some might ask why or even how, but for Geer it was a simple answer.

"The people," he said. "I like the people and the students. I've just enjoyed being here all this time."

It seems like such a simple answer for such an important person here at Avila. With his many roles that have helped make Avila athletics what it is today, Geer is a person who will be missed. ▲



To learn more about Avila's athletic program, upcoming games and how to support the Eagles, visit [avila.edu/athletics](http://avila.edu/athletics).

# Eagles Junior Receives Prestigious Liston Award

Arianne Henry, a senior this fall on the Avila University women's basketball team, was selected as the recipient of the 2013 Emil S. Liston Award for all female athletes in the Heart of America Athletic Conference.

As winner of the conference award, Henry, a native of Humansville, Mo., is now eligible for the national Liston Award, the highest award bestowed annually by the NAIA.

The Liston Award, named after the founder of the NAIB (National Association of Intercollegiate Basketball) and one of the founders of the NAIA national basketball tournament, is awarded annually to a junior women's and men's basketball player who exemplifies excellence on and off the court. It especially honors work in the classroom and overall citizenship.

"I am honored to receive such a prestigious award as the Liston Award," Henry said. "I am so grateful that I chose a university that values academic achievement as highly as they celebrate athletic competition."

As a 5-foot-10 junior forward for the Eagles last season, Henry started four games and finished with 36 rebounds and



28 points in 14.7 minutes per game. However, according to head coach Larry Williams, Henry's contributions went far beyond the court.

"Avila is touted for its education program and the rigor in which it beholds," Williams said. "Arianne not only challenges herself to meet the requirements but also challenges the department to uphold its pres-

titute. Her 4.0 grade-point average speaks to her dedication and knowledge, but doesn't do justice to the effort she puts forth.

"Last season, I saw her leadership role grow more than ever. Arianne has taken the initiative to assist younger teammates with basketball concepts and team philosophies. Oftentimes looked to as the inspirational leader, Arianne encourages others with her thoughtful words as well as her shining example."

Henry was unanimously selected for the Eagles' "Sixth Man Award," awarded to the player who contributes hustle and dedication to the team.

In its letter to Avila President Ron Slepitz, Ph.D., a representative from the NAIA wrote: "Ms. Henry is an outstanding example of the high ideals and standards held by each member institution within the NAIA. Avila University can take pride in being represented by such a fine student." □

## New Face, New Adventures

It's been a busy fall season for Avila University's new head volleyball coach, Loretta McGovern. In just a couple months, she's started her college coaching career, bonded with her players and recently got engaged.

It's made for a very hectic period. But, through it all, her love of volleyball has kept her forging ahead.

"I love volleyball because it is quick and so much fun to watch and play," she said. "I have spent the last 20 years of my life playing or coaching or both."

During those 20 years, McGovern's life has been filled with volleyball. She was a former standout player at Notre Dame de Sion high school, being selected second-team All-Metro as a senior. After high school, she attended the University of Missouri where she played two years and both years went to national tournaments.

Stepping down from volleyball after her sophomore year to concentrate on her education, McGovern stayed close to volleyball by coaching.

"I was blessed to have some pretty wonderful coaches in my career that showed me what it meant to care about your team and to be dedicated to your profession," she said.

Being down to seven healthy players this season, McGovern admits it has been a challenging season, but also very rewarding. Starting her job in April she ended up with a smaller squad than anticipated, but the girls accepted the challenge and ran with it.

"Our record doesn't represent how far we have come from the beginning of the season," she said. "I am very excited to continue training these girls in the spring and see what we can accomplish with them and our new recruits next year." □



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*A Doll's House*  
BY HENRIK IBSEN  
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Music and Tunes by Dolly Parton  
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Call 816.501.3699  
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# Avila Heritage



## Mary Catherine (Immegart) '79 and Dick Heimburer

### Securing Avila's Heritage

Making a bequest to Avila in your estate to benefit future Avila students is just one way you can join The Avila Heritage Society. The Heritage Society was established in 1988 to recognize the remarkable contributions of Avila alumni and friends who have made provisions in their estate plans or lifetime planned gifts to support the future needs of the University. Such provisions may include:

- Bequests through Wills and Trusts
- Charitable Remainder or Lead Trusts
- Appreciated Securities
- Real Estate and Life Estates in Homes
- Gift Annuities
- Life Insurance Policies

To find out more about joining Avila's Heritage Society or the gift vehicles above, please contact Keith Jaloma, director of major gifts, at 816.501.3696.

**I**t seems that Mary Catherine (Immegart) Heimburer '79 can't help but get emotional when recalling her days as a student at Avila University. Especially when it comes to talking about the mission of Avila's founding Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet and the specific Sisters which helped her earn a double major in elementary education and music education ... well, her voice tends to crack and her eyes get moist pretty quickly.

It's obvious that what the Hannibal, Mo. native took away from Avila all those years ago had a profound effect and still does to this day.

"The most poignant thing about my time at Avila was that, when I came here, I felt an environment where I had a purpose and knew I was going to be accountable for the rest of my life," she said. "The Sisters were so educated and experienced, and inspiring and so positive. My life was impacted so deeply."

About 10 years ago, Heimburer began reaping the fruits of that impact, to seek out a greater purpose for her life. After more than two decades devoting herself to be a full-time administrator of her husband Dick's medical practice, Heimburer enrolled in the Aquinas Institute of Theology in St. Louis. She first earned a master's in theology, but didn't stop there, going on to receive a master's in divinity. She serves as a spiritual director at several parishes in her hometown of Columbia, Mo.

And, she's giving back to her undergraduate alma mater. Heimburer said she remembers a kind gesture offered by an Avila financial aid officer to pay off the final \$1,000 of her tuition balance, which meant the world to her. That officer's name was David Kerr '76, who today serves on the University's Board of Trustees.

The Heimburers joined Avila's Heritage Society with an estate gift to Avila, to go to the University's music program.



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*38<sup>th</sup> Annual*  
*Steer Dinner & Auction*

*Inspire. Influence. Transform.*



**Saturday, February 15, 2014 ■ 6 pm**

Kansas City Marriott Downtown, Muehlebach Tower  
1213 Wyandotte, Kansas City, Mo.

Enjoy a delicious steak dinner, a spirited live and silent auction, and dancing the night away – all to raise support for the Avila University Scholarship Fund.

Tables of 10 are \$2,500 or individual tickets are \$250.

Recent Alumni Tickets: \$100 (for 2003-2013 alumni).

Sponsorship packages are available  
and range from \$100,000 to \$2,500.

[avila.edu/steer](http://avila.edu/steer)

For more information call 816.501.2450  
or email [robin.rowland@avila.edu](mailto:robin.rowland@avila.edu).

Kenneth and Marilyn Hager, Event Chairs  
Dave '76 and Geri Frantze, Honorary Chairs

